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EUROPEAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Happy Hristo! Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov has been named 1994 European Footballer of the Year. The Barcelona star, who inspired his country to the semi-finals of the World Cup and finished as the tournament's joint top scorer, was the clear winner of the Golden Ball trophy in the poll of journalists conducted by *France Football* magazine. He finished ahead of last year's winner Roberto Baggio. Paolo Maldini, *WORLD SOCCER*'s Player of the Year, was third.

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EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

Sicilian tragedy . . . Croatian striker Davor Suker celebrates his second goal against Italy in Palermo

Top bosses ON THE BRINK

Some of Europe's top coaches are fighting for their jobs as the race for places at Euro '96 hots up. Keir Radnedge reports

THE OLD cliché is as true as ever: when a team do well the players get the praise, when a team do badly the coach gets the sack.

Or, if he does not receive his marching orders then he is, at the least, left in no doubt as to populist opinion. No matter that you guided your team to the second round of the World Cup finals (as in the case of Belgium's Paul Van Himst) or the quarter-finals (like Germany's Berti Vogts) or even the Final itself (like Italy's Arrigo Sacchi). Kenny Dalglish may bore the pants off the media with his endless repetition of "you're only as good as your last result," but he is absolutely right.

The qualifying rounds of the European Championship prove the point. How many managers will have been chopped and changed by the time the last 16 gather in England in May, 1996?

Take the case of Sacchi. Media and fans wasted no time calling for his dismissal after Italy, the World Cup runners-up, suffered their shock 2-1 home defeat by Croatia in Palermo. In a telephone survey, 71 per cent of fans said Sacchi should be replaced and the theme was taken up by the Italian sports newspapers. The defeat was variously described as humiliating and shameful.

Sacchi, who had been under heavy pressure after revelations of his one-million-dollars annual salary, has remained adamant that he will ignore the criticism. He says: "Our players were not mentally ready for this match. We were afraid of the game mentally and that affected our team's physical responses. Why should I resign? I've said before and I repeat now that I intend to honour my contract to the very last day. This result complicates our qualifying campaign but I am still confident we will qualify for the finals.

"Remember, two teams will go through from the group and there are many more matches to play. This is the time to roll up our sleeves and work harder, not run away. We're not out yet."

The defeat by Croatia was Italy's fifth in 34 games under Sacchi, with 21 wins and eight draws. He and his team were jeered off the pitch by the Palermo crowd who also warmly applauded a Croatian team who dominated the match, winning with one goal in each half from striker Davor Suker. Midfielder Dino Baggio headed Italy's goal in injury time.

Roberto Baggio, the one man who did more than any other to rescue Italy (and Sacchi) at the World Cup finals, appeared to endorse the public mood when he agreed under high-pressure questioning that perhaps Sacchi's teams had not yet delivered the expected goods in terms more of performance than results. But Milan defender Alessandro Costacurta came to his old club coach's support, saying: "The coach should be given more time in which to work. It's the players who bear the majority of responsibility for the result. I'm still sure that Sacchi is the best tactical coach in the world."

Sacchi was not the only coach to find a senior player prepared to stand up for him in public. So, perhaps even more surprisingly, was German boss Vogts. Remarkably, it was skipper Lothar Matthaus – never previously considered one of Vogts's greatest admirers – who proposed the vote of confidence.

The Germans opened their European Championship later than anyone else, won easily by 3-0 against Moldova then struggled to a 2-1 home victory over Albania in Kaiserslautern in the most uninspiring atmosphere imaginable. That was enough to set off the fans into chants of "Berti, out!" In the past, Germany's most loquacious players have often been known to slip out of side doors to express by silence their own tacit opinions of the man in charge.

Not Matthaus this time. Instead, extending his playing philosphy of attack as the best form of defence, he came out with all guns blazing – defending both the way Vogts ran the World Cup campaign and the way he is striving to rebuild and re-equip for Euro '96.

Matthaus – respected, admired but never adored – needs only four more international appearances to overtake Peter Shilton's record mark of 125 internationals. At 33 he wants to drive Bayern Munich to a second successive German league title and help them regain the Champions Cup they last paraded in 1976. But he has now also portrayed himself as driven by angry desire to make amends for the Germans' surprise World Cup exit at the hands and head of Bulgaria in Giants Stadium, New Jersey, last July.

Spanish tussle . . . Belgium were trounced 4-1 at home by Spain

On the flight home Matthaus and his team-mates pointed the fingers of blame variously at mistaken team selection (by Vogts), the wrong tactics (by Vogts), a lack of leadership and inspiration (by Vogts) and bad marking of Bulgarian match-winner Yordan Lechkov (by Tommy Hassler).

Now, with the benefit of honest and

painful perspective. Matthaus has changed his mind. Internal unrest and personality clashes within Germany's playing squad is now his official verdict on Germany's failure to prevent Brazil, instead, seizing the record fourth world crown.

He said: "Looking at the potential we should have won the World Cup again. But there was no unity. I believe some jealousy was involved, every player considered only himself and his own needs and not those of the team." Matthaus, who played sweeper rather than his 1990 Cup-winning role of midfield general, did not spare his own failings as captain. He added: "I was at fault as captain for not talking enough with the other players but then I was inhibited by the sense that that no one would be listening anyway because they were all worrying about their own interests."

Then came the narrow squeak against Albania – a margin of victory all the more humiliating because Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer had complained beforehand that "the major countries should not have to play so often against little teams who cannot hope to give us a game."

Beckenbauer may have a point but this, clearly, is not the appropriate moment for German football people to be raising it. As Matthaus added: "It would have been a football catastrophe for Germany if Albania had equalised. But the fans must accept that Germany are not the only country which can play football. Berti always does the right thing for the team. The criticism he's received is unfair and often below the belt. It's the players who should be blamed. We're the ones out on the pitch, not the coach."

Not that every player wants to be out on the pitch for his country. Franky Van der Elst carried through his threat to retire from the national team after being jeered mercilessly through the second half of Belgium's shattering 4-1 home defeat by Spain.

He said the next day: "I had already announced that I would quit if things went wrong against Macedonia and Spain. Well, Macedonia held us for a draw and we can have no complaints about the result against Spain. I've played 69 times for my country and I have had many good moments in the national team. I'm not going to let one bad game and one bad result spoil the memories but now that it's virtually impossible for us to qualify, I think it's time to give other players a chance."

Belgium, already eight points behind group leaders Spain after four games, have only beaten Armenia, of course. Now that the players are falling away, coach Van Himst is himself in the direct line of fire. He has been accused of being tactically limited while the Belgian federation is being pilloried for an inefficient youth production system.

Van Himst may wonder now whether he should have listened more intently to the siren voices urging him to call it a day after the World Cup.

Still, Belgium's problems have not been the only European qualifying surprise.

In Group One Israel defeated Azerbaijan 2-0 in neutral Turkey to move, surprisingly, into second place behind Romania and remain on course for their first appearance in a major international event since the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico.

Simultaneously, group rivals France and Poland did neither of themselves any favours by drawing drew 0-0 in the Polish coal capital of Zabrze. It was a third successive 0-0 draw for France who had midfielder Christian Karembeu of Nantes sent off for bringing down Roman Kosecki in the 50th minute. Not until the goal-scoring return of Jean-Pierre Papin against Azerbaijan in December did Aime Jacquet's men start to look a little more like true blues. Clearly, the controversy over Eric Cantona's selection as captain has not exactly helped the cause – not yet, at least.

Brolin in agony . . . the Swedish star in stretchered off against Hungary

Spain appear the most likely of qualifiers at this stage after winning all their four matches. The victory over Belgium followed a 3-0 victory over Denmark in Seville which left the defending title-holders looking almost as sick as the Belgians. The Spaniards, of course, are the Danes' jinx team – having beaten them five times in major competition going back to the 1984 European Championship semi-finals in France.

'The major countries should not have to play so often against little teams who cannot hope to give us a game'

Franz Beckenbauer, before Germany stumbled to a 2-1 win over Albania

In Group Three Roy Hodgson's Switzerland maintained their World Cup momentum with three victories out of three games played – the third being achieved away to Turkey and despite the absence of striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz. The Galatasaray striker had requested that he be omitted from the Swiss squad for fear of his fate if he contributed in any significant manner to Swiss success in his parents' homeland and in front of his own club supporters.

Sweden appear the most troublesome pursuers despite the absence for the rest of this season of Tomas Brolin. The ankle fracture he suffered creating a goal against Hungary was a painful blow not only for one of the most improved players of 1994 as well as for Sweden but for the Italian domestic hopes of Parma.

Italy's problems dominate the face of Group Four though the likes of Croatia and Ukraine were never going to be easy opposition and Alen Boksic's Croats apear well on the way to England.

In Group Five one assumes that Holland, under the new command of Guus Hiddink now that Dick Advocaat has been lured away by PSV Eindhoven, should possess enough talent to outplay Norway and the Czech Republic, though that was also popular opinion before the last World Cup qualifying competition.

Portugal achieved a record eight goals against Liechtenstein in Group Six. They and Ukraine are the only significant European nations with part-time national managers but Toni – on occasional secondment from Bordeaux – has enormous potential at his beck and call. Portugal were one of the most regretted absentees from the World Cup finals and should prove highly contrasting qualifiers alongside an Irish Republic side who clearly have the measure of their Northern neighbours.

Bulgaria lead Group Seven after a 4-1 walkover against a Wales side who appear to have collapsed both on and off the pitch. Perhaps, now that John Toshack has been 'freed' of his responsibilities with Real Sociedad, he might be invited to pick up the pieces he dropped after one match at the start of the season. On the other hand, all the off-field controversy over the role of chief executive Alun Evans, does not promise a smooth ride for whoever may ultimately pick up the mantle of the luckless Mike Smith.

Group Eight saw Greece manage a revival victory over Scotland in a match which saw two controversial penalty decisions by Dutch referee John Blankenstein. The first was to award the kick from which Greece scored the only goal, the second was to deny the Scots a late opportunity to equalise when the visitors claimed John Spencer had been tripped.

In a year's time those decisions may take on even greater significance if Greece squeeze through ahead of Scotland and behind everyone's group favourites, Russia.

Also by that time, of course, a few more managers' heads may have rolled.

How they stand

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Israel	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
France	4	1	3	0	2	0	6
Poland	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Slovakia	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Azerbaijan	4	0	0	4	0	8	0

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	4	0	0	11	2	12
Macedonia	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Denmark	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Cyprus	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Belgium	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Armenia	3	0	1	2	0	4	1

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Sweden	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Turkey	3	1	1	1	8	4	4
Hungary	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Iceland	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Lithuania	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Italy	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Ukraine	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Slovenia	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Estonia	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Holland	4	2	2	0	10	1	8
Czech Republic	3	1	2	0	6	1	5
Byelorussia	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Malta	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	0	11	0

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	4	4	0	0	14	2	12
Rep. Ireland	3	3	0	0	11	0	9
Northern Ireland	4	2	0	2	7	8	6
Austria	3	1	0	2	5	3	3
Latvia	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	5	1	21	0

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Germany	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Georgia	4	2	0	2	6	3	6
Moldova	4	2	0	2	5	9	6
Wales	4	1	0	3	4	11	3
Albania	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	4	4	0	0	12	1	12
Scotland	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Finland	4	2	0	2	9	7	6
Russia	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
San Marino	3	0	0	3	1	10	0
Faroe Islands	3	0	0	3	2	15	0

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

Here comes summer soccer . . . . . just as we told you, 30 years ago

BRITISH SOCCER – not to mention those traditional summer sports – will never be the same again once English and Scottish clubs get to grips with the Intertoto Cup.

But for long-standing *WORLD SOCCER* readers, this is a development which has been a long time coming. More than 30 years, in fact, since British entry into what is formally known as the International Football Cup was first suggested in these very pages.

The IFC – created in 1961 – is a competition run during the summer months and involving non-Europe-qualified teams from all over central and eastern Europe and Scandinavia. Its central purpose has always been to provide a pools schedule for European punters and organisation rested with the international liaison committees of the continent's state-run pools (or Toto) organisations – hence the Inter-Toto nickname.

For several years the Inter-Toto organisers have been pressing UEFA for a formal integration – and upgrade – of the event. The expansion of the UEFA Cup has now turned dream into reality. Next season the four top teams from the newly-named UEFA-Intertoto Cup will be admitted into the preliminary round of the 128-team, maximum-entry UEFA Cup.

A glossy brochure has been circulated throughout the various European leagues inviting every country to nominate representatives for the 1995 event. And that does now mean *every* country.

Southampton director Keith Wiseman presented a report on the pros and cons of English entry to the Premier League. The competition will be staged in June and July which would mean summer soccer. The Premier League clubs are, I understand, broadly in favour of an experimental entry. For one thing, this would test the water on the long-discussed issue of summer soccer; for another it would open up extra European competitive opportunities (only non-qualified clubs could enter); thirdly, it would provide extra revenue in what are traditional 'dead' months as far as gate, sponsorship and television income is concerned.

But there would also be drawbacks. First, much of the superb pitch renovation work undertaken in recent years would be put at risk; secondly, players would be denied any holidays at all with uncertain consequences for form and fitness throughout the 'real' season; thirdly, might this not stir up hostility from summer sports, not to mention residents in homes around our football grounds?

It has been suggested that moving to summer soccer could mean the introduction of a winter break. But I can't imagine the professional clubs giving up their lucrative Christmas and New Year holiday fixtures. Also, given the fixture pressure which already exists in the spring, how could the FA Cup's later rounds be pushed back.

One easy answer: reduce still further the number of clubs in the Premiership and withdraw them from the League Cup (after all, it isn't even a Premiership competition but an anachronistic hangover from the old Football League days).

But that's got no chance. There's a hard core of Premier League clubs who believe, for financial reasons, on stuffing as many matches as possible into their season. One more reason why entry into the Inter-Toto is so alluring.

How many clubs would England get? It could be as many as four . . . in which case half the clubs in the Premiership might well end this season having qualified, one way or another, for Europe.

No need for a referendum where football is concerned!

Mexico bid looks ominous for Asia

THE MOST INTRIGUING development on the World Cup front has been a declaration of interest from Mexico in challenging Japan and South Korea for the rights to host the 2002 World Cup.

Ever since the first World Cup of the next millenium became a subject for discussion it has been assumed it would be held in Asia. FIFA president Joao Havelange originally talked of Asia or Africa and then narrowed it down to Asia, with China being viewed as the most likely candidate. The Chinese option soon faded but Japan, for the past six years and, more recently, South Korea, have been working on precisely that original premise.

Now, suddenly, here comes Mexico. Rank outsiders? Hopeless dreamers? Don't you believe it. The fact that Mexico has already staged two World Cups is no drawback. Precisely the opposite as FIFA insiders whisper more insistently about doubts over the hosting capabilities of both Japan and South Korea.

Japan, despite a lavish promotional campaign, is no longer quite the brightest of prospects after political problems within the JFA and the bidding committee forced the side-lining of their most respected spokesman, Tadao Murata. Also, concern has been voiced about whether the international game can afford to take the World Cup to a country whose price of living would be prohibitively expensive to foreign fans.

As for South Korea, beavering away to make up ground on Japan, the recent decision to enlarge the World Cup field was bad news. The Koreans, for all the engineering brilliance of the Hyundai company run by the family of Federation President Chung, have yet to convince international observers that they could make the necessary strides in terms of infrastructure for 24-team finals – let alone 32.

As for Mexico . . . remember that Havelange's senior vice-president within FIFA is that great Mexican survivor Guillermo Canedo. Remember that Canedo is not only a long-standing associate of Havelange but a senior director of the all-powerful *Televisa* television channel which first acquired and then bankrolled the 1986 finals. Remember, Mexico has the stadia necessary for a 32-team finals already in place and a hugely-enthusiastic local audience.

Let's be honest: Mexico would not have staked a claim for 2002 without a broad hint that such a bid would receive generous consideration.

Mexico's Azteca stadium . . . venue for the World Cup Final in 1970, 1986 (below) and now possibly 2002

Memories of Mexico . . . the 1986 World Cup Final

A peculiarly English crisis

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN ENGLAND – the Great Bung Affair, that is.

Brian Clough, George Graham and every other manager who has ever signed a Scandinavian player all deny any sort of impropriety in their transfer business. But consider, if English football had embraced a continental club administrative system then allegations with such sensational implications could never have been laid.

This is not to say that some club officials in Italy or Spain, Germany or Holland have never been suspected at one time or another of not quite being up to the probity mark. But beyond the United Kingdom the general rule is that one man (the general manager, football director or technical director) sorts out transfers and contracts away from the public glare while another man (the coach or trainer) picks the team and tactics then pays with ignominious dismissal whenever results go wrong.

Thus the high-profile personality who picks the team is debarred from any involvement in the financial workings of his club. It is considered an area which is beyond his competence and which would, furthermore, prove an unnecessary distraction from his real work.

The English game has, in general, scoffed at this approach. The manager has been expected to be coaching guru, dressing-room diplomat and multi-million-pound juggler rolled into one. Yet these are men whose reputations in the game stem from deeds on the pitch rather than in business tutorials.

Manchester United have moved in the right direction with manager Alex Ferguson leaving transfer and contractual negotiations to chief executive Martin Edwards. Is it mere accident that United, a formal plc, are answerable to shareholders and must be, at executive level, the more open and above board?

The Premier League's 'bung commission' might consider recommending such a development at the end of its deliberations. The trio may, after all, have little else to say. It is 'only' a sports committee not a court of law. It has no judicial rights to subpoena private financial documentation or demand the production of tax records.

In the wake of the FA's Tottenham disaster, what action *dare* the Premier League take which would impugn the honesty of individuals or clubs? Nothing, surely, that the law of the land would countenance.

Thus the continental system of split responsibilities serves an extra, previously unconsidered purpose: it protects superstar team bosses from being battered with wild accusations of hidden transfer agendas. Isn't that what's wanted?

The 'bung commission' . . . Robert Reid QC, Rick Parry and Steve Coppell

Premier priority puzzle

SO THE NEWCASTLE UNITED CHAIRMAN and his fellow Sir-Johns-come-lately apparently believe they, and not the charicatured fuddy-duddies of the FA should be running the English game.

Sir John Hall knows everything there is to know, i'm sure, about creating shopping malls. But does he know anything about running a Sunday league? Has he ever taken his team's dirty kit home to Lady Hall's washing machine?

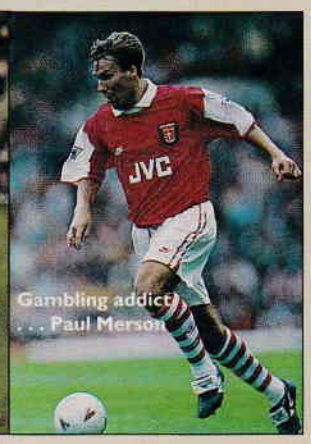
Here you find the eternal administrative contradiction within football. It is 95 per cent played and run by amateurs quite simply *because* the professional arena is only a tiny if highly visible and vocal corner.

Entrepreneurial chairmen believe the Premier League should force a reorganisation of the domestic game and the FA to suit their own market forces.

But is this the same Premier League whose chairmen are so mutually suspicious that every decision has to be taken in the round and not by elected executive? Is this the Premier League tarnished by allegations of sleaze and scandal? Is this the Premier League which has been up and running a mere three years?

The outmoded and unbalanced voting structure within the FA Council may appear infuriatingly indefensible to outsiders. But the Premier League chairmen should put their own house in order before trying to lay down the law elsewhere.

Shopping mall man . . . Sir John Hall



Gambling addict . . . Paul Merson

See you on the superhighway?

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? On the Internet, that is.

I ask out of interest following a lively response to last month's comment on FIFA's flawed step out onto the communications superhighway.

My frustration at the problems of accessing the FIFA computer archive is shared by readers far more computer-literate than myself. One observed that the signing-on procedure "appears designed specifically to *prevent* anyone from signing-on."

But it has been fascinating to discover how many international football aficionados do use the Internet and its cousins to discuss the world game, exchange information, opinions and arrange swaps of match videos.

Now, here's a challenge. Talk to us, on the Internet. Let me know how many of you are out there. We might even develop it into a regular feature in the magazine. A sort of bulletin board extension.

Just send me a greeting – with suggestions on how we might develop these contacts – through CompuServe UK to 70006.1010 or through Delphi to keirad@delphi.com.

Media's Merson mix-up

I FELT SORRY FOR PAUL MERSON. Drugs make for what they call 'sexy headlines' in the business. But Merson's real problem was not an addiction to cocaine but an addiction to gambling. And that is a delicately ambiguous issue for a mass media which, while pillorying Merson, simultaneously promotes the something-for-nothing virtues of the National Lottery, to say nothing of horse-racing, football pools and the rest!

Swede sensation . . . Jesper Blomqvist grabs IFK's first goal against Man United in Gothenburg

Back to BASICS

As the European Champions Cup reverts to its traditional knock-out format, Jonathan Shallard reviews the story so far and previews the quarter-finals

THE CHAMPIONS League having run its course we can now return to the familiar Champions Cup spring scenario of knock-out quarter-finals, semi-finals (two legs rather than one as last season) and Final (probably in Vienna).

UEFA president Lennart Johansson insists that, the odd courtroom skirmish over television rights aside, the Champions League is here to stay. Whether the present format will survive long is another matter. We have said in these pages before that the Champions League offers the only practical route towards the inevitable European Superleague because, of course, such an event can only be developed with the creative patronage of UEFA.

In any case, what little threat ever existed of a go-it-alone movement has surely been shelved now that its prime mover, Silvio Berlusconi, has had to concentrate on real politics rather than the football variety; Italian national stability is a somewhat more important matter than the promotion of a commercial empire's football-playing flagship.

When the Champions League was launched critics laid into the concept as one of football elitism: that the likes of Milan, Barcelona and Manchester United would cream off much of the money provided by exclusive sponsorship and television contracts. It was suggested, further, that a competition which had gained huge attention through its knock-out formula could not happily be converted into a cross-breed, with a league system dropped into the middle. UEFA laid the competition open to further criticism when entry – as from this season – was sliced to 24 clubs with the other European champion clubs syphoned off into the UEFA Cup.

Intriguingly, the greatest resistance to the concept has come from Germany where the magazine *Kicker* has been unrelenting in its criticism. General opinion in England – where traditionalist defence of the knock-out formula might have been assumed to be most virulent – has been open-minded. Perhaps the naked commercial projection of the Premier League has made the conversion of Champions Cup into Champions League appear a minor matter by comparison.

Italy, another of the mainstream traditionalists, has also taken the Champions League in its stride. Then again, in the wake of the Berlusconi 'soccer explosion' it also appears of minor significance. Also, Milan are the only Italian team to have appeared thus far in the Champions League. Perhaps next season, when Parma or Fiorentina or Lazio or Juventus break the mould, the concept may be re-examined rather more critically by Italian press and public.

Opponents and proponents have produced various statistics to justify their stances. On the one hand, one German survey claimed that attendances and goal-scoring rates were down, while a comparison of goal-scoring and attendances in the first four matchdays of the 1994-95 Champions League produced improved figures by comparison with the first two rounds of the last 'proper' all-knock-out Champions Cup back in 1990-91. You pays your money and takes your choice.

Taking a more general, if subjective view, it appears that it is *not* the top clubs who are reaping the greatest benefit from the Champions League but the middle-range ones. The likes of Milan, Barcelona, Manchester United and Bayern Munich will go on turning over huge sums through their own long-established domestic power and financial resources. Manchester United, for example, announced record profits of around £10million after a season in which they were knocked out of the Champions Cup *before* the Champions League section had begun.

Italy, Spain, England and Germany should be considered the prime nations of Europe in terms of the football industry. That is why UEFA created the Champions League – to provide the greatest clubs of the greatest football nations with the regular international competition they craved within a commercial and televisual structure which UEFA could control and from which it could raise sums to benefit the entire European game.

It may be considered ironic at the Stadio Meazza, at Nou Camp, within Old Trafford and at the Olympiastadion, that the greatest beneficiaries are not so much themselves

Hands up if you've just beaten Man United . . . IFK players celebrate a memorable win

but the likes of the champions from Portugal, Belgium, France, Holland, Russia, Sweden and Greece . . . countries which may be considered bedrock material from a second strata of the European football hierarchy.

Turkish football has benefited immeasurably in popular appeal and thus financially from Galatasaray's Champions League campaigns; Croatia can scarcely believe its luck at the progress to the last eight made by Hajduk Split; Austrian football, deep in another trough, was given welcome relief from worried introspection by the exploits in the UEFA Cup last season and Champions League this term of Casino Salzburg; and IFK Gothenburg have been virtually permanently enthroned in Sweden through the happy process by which money earned in the Champions League empowers them to buy the best talent in Sweden, win the league again, return to the Champions League, then reinvest, and on, and on, and on. UEFA really should be able to persuade the manufacturers of long-life batteries to join the raft of sponsors.

A decade ago the Champions League might have been described as football's demonstration of the validity of the 'trickle-down' theory of economics. UEFA has cleared every deck imaginable for the sake of the Champions League, even rescheduling Cup-winners Cup and UEFA Cup to separate days of the week (and clubs which do not like it are not, of course, forced to enter the competitions).

The next long-term challenge is to widen the entry scope of the Champions League so that all Europe's champion teams may have access; the next short-term challenge is the return to the knock-out quarter-finals and to see whether the 'great' clubs – Milan, Bayern, Barca – are really quite as good as they have tried to make us believe.

WHO'S IN THE MONEY

Clubs in the Champions League were paid £1.1million for participation plus £250,000 for each match point gained (on a two-points-for-a-win system; next season teams will receive three points for a win). The money came from the sums paid by television channels (exclusive rights being sold to one per country) and event sponsors. UEFA used profits to subsidise the expenses of clubs eliminated in the early rounds of competition, to meet refereeing costs and to fund youth and women's competitions.

CLUB	CASH
Paris Saint-Germain	£4.1million
Ajax Amsterdam	£3.6million
Benfica	£3.35million
IFK Gothenburg	£3.35million
Milan	£2.85million*
Barcelona	£2.6million
Bayern Munich	£2.6million
Hajduk Spli	£2.6million
Manchester Utd	£2.6million
Casino Salzburg	£2.35million
Steaua Bucharest	£2.35million
Anderlecht	£2.1million
Moscow Spartak	£2.1million
Galatasaray	£1.85million
AEK Athens	£1.6million
Kiev Dynamo	£1.6million

* Milan had two points deducted for crowd trouble in their 3-0 home win over Salzburg but UEFA decided they could keep the cash gained for the two points.

THE QUARTER-FINALS

THE DRAW
QUARTER-FINALS
(March 1 and 15 – first named team at home in first leg)
Bayern Munich v IFK Gothenburg
Hajduk Split v Ajax Amsterdam
Barcelona v Paris Saint-Germain
Milan v Benfica

SEMI-FINALS
(April 5 and 19)
Bayern or IFK v Hajduk or Ajax
Barcelona or Paris S-G v Milan or Benfica

FINAL
(May 24 – venue to be announced)

BAYERN MUNICH v IFK GOTHENBURG
Bayern, three-times winners of the Champions Cup in the 1970s, are hardly the most in-form team of the season, but they carry two major advantages into action against the Swedish champions. On the one hand, Bayern's mixture of players such as Jean-Pierre Papin, Lothar Matthaus and Alain Sutter possess a depth of individual international experience beyond the reach of IFK. Secondly, Bayern will be back in domestic competition action after the German winter break well in time for the quarter-finals. IFK, by contrast, comfortably retained the Swedish championship in the autumn and since the 1-1 draw with Barcelona in the Champions League on December 7 have had little more than a diet of friendly matches on which to base their work. IFK do, however, possess one of European football's most coveted new stars in forward Jesper Blomqvist and their confidence levels will have been boosted considerably from topping a Champions League group which featured supposedly-stronger Barcelona and Manchester United.

Bayern star . . . Papin

HAJDUK SPLIT V AJAX AMSTERDAM
Ajax are the new favourites to win the Champions Cup after their stroll through the Champions League, which they ended unbeaten. Patrick Kluivert provides youthful potential while players such as Frank Rijkaard possess all the top-level experience necessary to guide the Dutch champions through to the last four, at least. Rijkaard was a European club champion with Milan and could yet become only the fourth player to have won the Champions Cup with two clubs (the others were Dejan Savicevic, Marcel Desailly and Miodreag Belodedici). Hajduk Split have already worked a major public relations exercise on behalf of Croat football by reaching the last eight. They will be underdogs against Ajax but the recent victory of the Croat national team away to Italy in the European Championship qualifiers underlines the continuing quality of Croat football and footballers.

Old team-mates . . . Maldini and Rijkaard

BARCELONA V PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN
Award-winners feature all over the place in what appears, on paper, to be perhaps the most entertaining of the quarter-finals. Barcelona have not been at their best in the Spanish league and stumbled nervously in their decisive last Champions League match against IFK Gothenburg. But no attack boasting new European Footballer of the Year Hristo Stoichkov and new International Sportsman of the Year Romario can be taken lightly. Paris, who have themselves recovered impressively from a slow start in the French championship, will rely in attack on the 1993 French Footballer of the Year David Ginola and in defence on his award-winning successor, goalkeeper Bernard Lama. The extent of his achievement can be gauged from the fact that he is only the second goalkeeper to win the top French individual award in the 30 years since its inception.

PSG's trump card . . . David Ginola

MILAN V BENFICA
Milan defeated Benfica in the Champions Cup Finals of 1963 and 1990 but the Portuguese champions will never have a better opportunity of wreaking revenge. The Italian club themselves do not deny that this has not been the most smooth-running of seasons. They were eliminated early from the Italian cup, sit only in mid-table in the league, lost through their own errors to Argentina's Velez Sarsfield in the World Club Cup and struggled to qualify for the Champions Cup quarter-finals. The two-point penalty imposed by UEFA after crowd trouble in the home tie against Casino Salzburg threatened to prove fatal. Only in the very last game, away to Salzburg, did Milan come through on sheer fighting spirit. Benfica, by contrast, strengthened their ranks effectively last summer with the signings of World Cup stars such as Belgian goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme and Argentinian forward Claudio Caniggia. Undefeated in Group C of the Champions League, they qualified for the last eight with a game to spare. A Champions Cup qualifying crowd record could be set if Benfica's Estadio da Luz is filled to its 130,000 capacity for the second leg.

Benfica ace . . . Caniggia

Group A

Swedes spring surprise

IFK GOTHENBURG were surprise group winners with Barcelona the runners-up – but only after they struggled to hang on for a 1-1 draw at home against the Swedes in their last match.

Defeat would have cost Barcelona a place in the quarter-finals since pursuers Manchester United were winning easily at home to Galatasaray in a vain attempt to overtake.

United had been group leaders after securing a 4-2 opening victory over IFK then drawing 0-0 away to Galatasaray. Trouble had been feared in Turkey after a violent confrontation between the clubs there last November but this match was a relatively tame one although four players were booked by Dutch referee Mario van der Ende – one from Galatasaray and three from United.

Barcelona opened with a 2-1 victory over Galatasaray then conceded two late goals to lose by the same margin in Gothenburg and set up their duels with Manchester United as the keys to the group.

Johan Cruyff's Spanish champions secured a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford then thrashed United 4-0 back in Nou Camp. Bulgarian World Cup star Hristo Stoichkov scored twice and, while United fretted over the foreign player restrictions which cost them the absence of Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, they might have been relieved that Barcelona – similarly – had to forego the creative services of Romania's Gheorghe Hagi.

It was United's biggest defeat in Europe since they lost to FC Porto by the same score in a Cup-winners Cup tie in October 1977 and their biggest defeat in any game since they lost 4-0 at Liverpool in the league back in September 1990.

Simultaneously, Gothenburg followed up their retention of the Swedish league title by winning 1-0 away to Galatasaray in Turkey and taking over the group leadership – which they never then relinquished. Indeed, their next victory – by 3-1 at home to Manchester United – earned them a quarter-final place with a game to spare.

Jesper Blomqvist – a target for a string of Latin European clubs – Magnus Erlingmark and captain Pontus Kamark (penalty) scored IFK's goals.

Nou Camp nightmare . . . Stoichkov scores in Barca's 4-0 demolition of Man United

United missed the likes of Peter Schmeichel, Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs and Lee Sharpe through injury but manager Alex Ferguson did not look for excuses, saying: "It was a terrible result for us. We cannot expect to come away with anything from matches like this when we concede goals like we did in Barcelona [a 4-0 defeat] and in Sweden. You can make excuses if you want to but at the end of the day we weren't good enough."

United's prospects of qualifying were not enhanced by the suspensions of Paul Ince (sent off in Sweden) and Mark Hughes (who collected a second yellow card) for the last, home game against Galatasaray. United's young reserves won easily by a 4-0 margin but Barcelona, thanks to the goalkeeping brilliance of Carlos Busquets and a rare headed goal from skipper Jose Bakero, secured the 1-1 draw against IFK which squeezed them into the quarter-finals.

Group B

PSG on a high

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN put aside erratic domestic form to finish the Champions League as the only team with a 100 per cent record – six victories in six games.

First they beat Bayern Munich; then they followed up with a 2-1 win over Moscow Spartak in Russia and the 'double' over Kiev Dynamo. Paris won 2-1 away in the capital of the Ukraine then 1-0 at home in the Parc des Princes. The French champions booked their place in the last eight – with two matchdays remaining – thanks to a 68th-minute header from Liberian striker George Weah.

Behind them, Bayern Munich's ambitions suffered a further setback when they were held 2-2 at home by Spartak Moscow, who had been the joint bottom team in the group. Bayern coach Giovanni Trapattoni gambled on the inclusion of Sammy Osei Kuffour, an 18-year-old defender from Ghana, who celebrated only his second senior appearance with a vital goal.

Bayern, who had not won in their six previous German league matches, twice had to come from behind as all four goals were scored in the first 37 minutes. Four minutes into the game Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn failed to clear a corner and Andrei Tikhonov shot home the loose ball. Bayern's Alexander Zickler headed against the bar in the 16th minute but the equaliser did come 13 minutes later, courtesy of a header by Christian Nerlinger.

Papin power . . . the French striker steers Bayern Munich to the quarter-finals

Poor defending allowed Yuri Alenichev to reclaim the lead for Moscow with a fine solo effort only four minutes later. The Germans hit back again in the 37th minute when Kuffour headed their second equaliser. Zickler missed a superb chance to seal victory for Bayern towards the end when he went clear through the Russian defence only to be foiled by a brave save from Moscow goalkeeper Dimitri Tiapushkin.

The German champions hoped that the return after injury of veteran French striker Jean-Pierre Papin would provide the revival spark they needed at home to his fellow countrymen from Paris. Instead, the French champions were inspired to one of the finest performances of the year, winning 1-0 in the Olympic stadium in Munich thanks to an 81st-minute strike from Weah.

Papin had already been substituted but next time out his presence proved decisive as Bayern, with a brace from Papin, defeated Kiev 4-1 in the Ukraine on the last matchday to snatch the second qualifying place behind PSG. The German champions appeared to have turned their season around by restoring Lothar Matthaus to midfield after his controversial year as sweeper.

Paris completed their domination of the section with a 4-1 thrashing of Moscow Spartak. George Weah scored twice and David Ginola and Rai once each. Weah, former African Footballer of the Year, thus ended up as the Champions League's six-goal top scorer.

Group C
Benfica in charge

PORTUGUESE champions Benfica progressed from Group C along with one of the unseeded outsiders in Hajduk Split from Croatia where the clubs drew 0-0 on the opening matchday.

Argentinian forward Claudio Caniggia proved crucial to the Lisbon side's progress, scoring twice next time out in their all-important 3-1 win over Anderlecht. Caniggia might well have celebrated with a hat-trick but he squandered the opportunity when he missed a penalty two minutes after half-time.

The Argentinian scored again in Benfica's next outing, a 2-1 home win over Steaua Bucharest. He missed the return in Romania after being injured in training on the eve of the game. But Benfica still secured a 1-1 draw while Hajduk justified claims of the tightest defence in the Champions League – with one goal conceded in four games – as they gave nothing away in a goalless draw against Anderlecht in Brussels.

The Belgians, ravaged by injury, had long since given up hope of reaching the quarter-finals. Their own Croatian-born striker, Josip Weber, did prod the ball into the net once against Hajduk but the score was disallowed for offside.

Now Benfica and Hajduk needed only to draw in Lisbon on November 23, the fifth matchday, to secure quarter-final places for both of them and with one round of matches still to go.

In fact, Benfica defeated Hajduk 2-1 in their Estadio da Luz in Lisbon but both teams qualified as Steaua and Anderlecht eliminated each other by playing to a 1-1 draw in Romania. Brazilian-born Isaias Soares and Portugal's Joao Vieira Pinto scored in Benfica's victory, with midfielder Stjepan Andrijasavic providing a consolation for the Croats as they went down to their first group defeat.

Benfica completed their unbeaten run at the top of Group C with a 1-1 draw against Anderlecht in Belgium on the last matchday. Having already qualified, the 1961 and 1962 winners were able to play without pressure. They fought back with an 83rd minute goal from Silva Edilson after Graeme Rutjes had put Anderlecht ahead four minutes after the interval.

In the other concluding match Hajduk surprisingly collapsed 4-1 at home to Steaua. Adrian Ilie scored two early goals for Steaua but Hajduk could, by then, afford to be generous.

Battling through . . . Benfica's Joao Pinto takes on Anderlecht

Results

GROUP A

September 14

BARCELONA 2 (Koeman 30, Amor 50)
GALATASARAY 1 (Kubilay Turkyilmaz 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Ceccarini (It)

MANCHESTER UNITED 4 (Giggs 34, 66, Kanchelskis 49, Sharpe 71)
IFK GOTHENBURG 2 (Pettersson 27, Rehn 51)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)

September 28

GALATASARAY 0
MANCHESTER UNITED 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol).

IFK GOTHENBURG 2 (Erlingmark 74, Blomqvist 89)
BARCELONA 1 (Stoichkov 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,500. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger).

October 19

IFK GOTHENBURG 1 (Erlingmark 76)
GALATASARAY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 26,412. **Ref:** Grebher (Aus).

MANCHESTER UNITED 2 (Hughes 18, Sharpe 80)
BARCELONA 2 (Romario 34, Bakero 49)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,064. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)

November 2

BARCELONA 4 (Stoichkov 9, 52, Romario 45, Ferrer 88)
MANCHESTER UNITED 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 115,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr).

GALATASARAY 0
IFK GOTHENBURG 1 (Mikael Nilsson 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Krondl (Cz).

November 23

GALATASARAY 2 (Hakan 71pen, Arif 88)
BARCELONA 1 (Romario 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Zhuk (Belo)

IFK GOTHENBURG 3 (Blomqvist 11, Erlingmark 65, Kamark 72pen)
MANCHESTER UNITED 1 (Hughes 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,500. **Ref:** Trentalange (Italy).

December 7

BARCELONA 1 (Bakero 81)
IFK GOTEBORG 1 (Rehn 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 75,200. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel).

MANCHESTER UNITED 4 (Davies 3, Beckham 38, Keane 49, Bulent og 88)
GALATASARAY 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 39,220. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK Gothenburg	6	4	1	1	10	7	9
Barcelona	6	2	2	2	11	8	6
Manchester Utd	6	2	2	2	11	11	6
Galatasaray	6	1	1	4	3	9	3

GROUP B

September 14

KIEV DYNAMO 3 (Leonenko 47, 76, Rebrov 86)
MOSCOW SPARTAK 2 (Pisarev 12, Tokhonov 39
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Grabher (Aus)

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 2 (Weah 41, Bravo 83)
BAYERN MUNICH 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)

September 28

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Scholl 9)
KIEV DYNAMO 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom).

MOSCOW SPARTAK 1 (Rakhimov 38)
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 2 (Le Guen 56, Valdo 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,500. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe).

October 19

KIEV DYNAMO 1 (Leonenko 33pen)
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 2 (Guerin 26, Weah 76)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 92,500. **Ref:** Ceccarini (It).

MOSCOW SPARTAK 1 (Pisarev 78)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Babbel 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel).

November 2

BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Nerlinger 29, Kuffour 42)
MOSCOW SPARTAK 2 (Tikhonov 4, Alenichev 33)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol).

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 1 (Weah 68)
KIEV DYNAMO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,741. **Ref:** Cakar (Tur).

November 23

BAYERN MUNICH 0
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 1 (Weah 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Sp)

MOSCOW SPARTAK 1 (Mukhamadiev 51)
KIEV DYNAMO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 37,500. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)

December 7

DYNAMO KIEV 1 (Shevchenko 38)
BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Nerlinger 47, Papin 57, 82, Scholl 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Krondl (Cz).

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 4 (Weah 28, 52, Ginola 42, Rai 59)
SPARTAK MOSCOW 1 (Rodionov 67)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 31,461. **Ref:** Uzunov (Bul).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris S-G	6	6	0	0	12	3	12
Bayern Munich	6	2	2	2	8	7	6
Spartak Moscow	6	1	2	3	8	12	4
Kiev Dynamo	6	1	0	5	5	11	2

GROUP C

September 14

ANDERLECHT 0
STEAUA BUCHAREST 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Mottram (Scot)

HAJDUK SPLIT 0
BENFICA 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swz)

September 28

BENFICA 3 (Caniggia 26, 41, Tavares 72)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Paulo Madeira og 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Zhuk (Byel).

STEAUA BUCHAREST 0
HAJDUK SPLIT 1 (Asanovic 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Krondl (Cz).

October 19

BENFICA 2 (Caniggia 43pen, Joao Pinto Vieira 61)
STEAUA BUCHAREST 1 (Militaru 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)

HAJDUK SPLIT 2 (Pralija 34, Butorovic 86)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Weber 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Lopz Nieto (Sp).

November 2

ANDERLECHT 0
HAJDUK SPLIT 0
Att: 21,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger).

STEAUA BUCHAREST 1 (Panduru 27)
BENFICA 1 (Helder 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)

November 23

BENFICA 2 (Isaias 33, Joao Vieira Pinto 77)
HAJDUK SPLIT 1 (Andrijasevic 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)

STEAUA BUCHAREST 1 (Dobos 52)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Bosman 42)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Koho (Fin)

December 7

ANDERLECHT 1 (Rutjes 48)
BENFICA 1 (Edilson 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Batta (Fr).

HAJDUK SPLIT 1 (Andrijasevic 48)
STEAUA BUCHAREST 4 (Ilie 11, 32, Lacatus 23, Gilca 90)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** McCluskey (Scot).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	6	3	3	0	9	5	9
Hajduk Split	6	2	2	2	5	7	6
Steaua	6	1	3	2	7	6	5
Anderlecht	6	0	4	2	4	7	4

Group D

Milan scrape through

THE CONFRONTATION matching top seeds Milan against Ajax Amsterdam promised to make this one of the most memorable of groups. It proved memorable indeed, though perhaps not always for the reasons fans had expected.

European champions Milan made a poor start when they lost their opening match 2-0 away to Ajax, then were engulfed in controversy after goalkeeper Otto Konrad of Austrian rivals Casino Salzburg was struck on the head by a bottle during their clash in the Stadio Meazza.

Despite Milan claims that Konrad had been feigning injury, Swedish referee Leif Sundell thought differently. He said: "Straight after Giovanni Stroppa scored Milan's first goal in the 40th minute two plastic bottles containing mineral water plus a liqueur bottle rained down on to the pitch. One of the bottles, not full but almost, hit the goalkeeper on the head."

Konrad did play on after treatment but was substituted after Milan were shot 2-0 into the lead by Marco Simone. Konrad spent the night in hospital under observation while Salzburg, without him, ultimately lost 3-0. After the match they immediately appealed to UEFA for the result of the match or for a replay to be ordered on neutral territory.

In 1984 UEFA ordered the replay of a Cup-winners Cup match between Celtic and Rapid Vienna, then managed by present Salzburg trainer Otto Baric, after Austrian player Rudi Weinhofer was injured by a coin thrown by Scottish fans. In 1971 Internazionale Milan were granted a replay after a 7-1 European Cup defeat by Borussia Monchengladbach in Germany because striker Roberto Boninsegna was hit by a bottle. Inter earned a 0-0 draw in the replay and went through.

However, there were no second chances for Milan. UEFA removed the two points they had gained from winning the match and ordered them to play their next two home matches away from the Meazza.

Ajax, meanwhile, continued happily on their way, beating AEK Athens 2-1 in Greece with goals from Finnish international Jari Litmanen after 33 minutes and Patrick Kluivert after 63 minutes. Not until the third matchday did Ajax drop their first point, held goalless by Salzburg in Vienna.

Milan hung on for a goalless draw away to AEK Athens, then beat the Greek champions in the return in their temporary 'home' of Trieste. Defender Christian Panucci scored two second-half goals in seven minutes to secure a 2-1 victory after Macedonian midfielder Toni Savevski had shot AEK into an early 16th-minute advantage.

Panucci headed the equaliser from wide on the right in the 68th minute. The cross was delivered by fellow defender Paolo Maldini, playing his first game since his nose had been broken in the first game against the Greeks. Seven minutes later another Panucci header provided the winner, thus lifting Milan off the bottom of Group D.

Ajax struggled themselves at home to Salzburg and snatched a draw only thanks to a late goal from Litmanen. Kluivert, 18-year-old 'discovery' of the European season, found the Austrian defenders rather more resilient than many of the Dutchmen he faced in league matches week by week.

Milan, embattled on all fronts at home and abroad, lost 2-0 for a second time to Ajax. This was Milan's second 'home' game in Trieste. One further strike from Litmanen in the second minute and an own goal by Milan's captain and sweeper Franco Baresi in the 66th clinched first place for Ajax in the group with one round of games remaining.

Milan now had to beat Salzburg in Austria on the last matchday to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Salzburg had improved their own prospects – and confidence – with a 3-1 victory away to AEK Athens but Milan coach Fabio Capello insisted: "We have a better record than Salzburg and we are confident we can win."

The biggest club match in Austria for years was staged not in Salzburg but in the Ernst-Happel-stadion (formerly Prater) in Vienna and Milan left it late to maintain the defence of the title won so gloriously against Barcelona in Athens last May. A single goal from Daniele Massaro was just enough to keep the Italian champions on track for their fourth Final appearance in six years.

Ajax, simultaneously, maintained their impressive form with a 2-0 victory over AEK Athens thanks to one goal in each half from Tarik Oulida. A highly impressive performance all round for a Dutch team boasting an average age of under 25 and seeking a place in the Final for the first time since the club's Cup hat-trick in the early 1970s under the inspiration of Johan Cruyff.

Back from the brink . . . Stroppa beats Konrad in the San Siro; Maldini and Baresi close ranks on Ajax (below)

Results *(continued)*

GROUP D

September 14

AJAX 2 (R De Boer 51, Litmanen 65)
MILAN 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Sp)

CASINO SALZBURG 0
AEK ATHENS 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Harrel (Fr)

September 28

AEK ATHENS 1 (Savevski 30)
AJAX AMSTERDAM 2 (Litmanen 33, Kluivert 63)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger).

MILAN 3 (Stroppa 40, Simone 59, 64)
CASINO SALZBURG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,475. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe).

October 19

AEK ATHENS 0
MILAN 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun).

CASINO SALZBURG 0
AJAX AMSTERDAM 0
Att: 18,200 (in Vienna). **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swz).

November 2

AJAX AMSTERDAM 1 (Litmanen 85)
CASINO SALZBURG 1 (Kocijan 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,000. **Ref:** Mottram (Scot)

MILAN 2 (Panucci 68, 74)
AEK ATHENS 1 (Savevski 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,264 (in Trieste). **Ref:** Zhuk (Belarus)

November 23

AEK ATHENS 1 (Vlachos 29)
CASINO SALZBURG 3 (Pfeifenberger 7, 9, Hasenhuttl 76)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)

MILAN 0
AJAX AMSTERDAM 2 (Litmanen 2, Baresi og 66)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,200 (in Trieste). **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)

December 7

AJAX AMSTERDAM 2 (Oulida 8, 79)
AEK ATHENS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Monteiro Coroado (Por).

CASINO SALZBURG 0
MILAN 1 (Massaro 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 47,500 (in Vienna).
Ref: Craciunescu (Rom).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Milan	6	3	1	2	6	5	5*
Salzburg	6	1	3	2	4	6	5
AEK Athens	6	0	2	4	3	9	2

*two points deducted for crowd trouble.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – TOP SCORERS

1 .....George **WEAH** (Paris S-G) 6
2 .....Magnus **ERLINGMARK** (IFK) 4
Jari **LITMANEN** (Ajax) 4
4 .....Claudio **CANIGGIA** (Benfica) 3
Victor **LEONENKO** (Kiev Dynamo) 3
ROMARIO (Barcelona) 3
Hristo **STOICHKOV** (Barcelona) 3

French lessons

Arsenal's French test is tougher than it seems, says Keir Radnedge

HOLDERS ARSENAL were considered to have received the kindest of attention when they were matched against French club Auxerre in the draw for the quarter-finals of the European Cup-winners Cup in March.

The omens could be considered happy since it was against French opposition that the Gunners found their springboard to victory over Parma. Last season's opponents, French champions Paris Saint-Germain, might also be rated a stiffer test than Auxerre – a modest provincial side who are currently sixth in the French league.

Auxerre, coached by the charismatic and long-serving manager Guy Roux, rely heavily on the attacking speed of French internationals Corentins Martins and Tahiti-born Pascal Vahirua. In normal circumstances they might not be considered a serious problem for Arsenal but these are not, for the Gunners, normal times.

England's other Cup-winners Cup hopefuls, Glenn Hoddle's Chelsea, face perhaps a more awkward challenge in the shape of experienced European campaigners Club Brugge from Belgium. Their history includes appearances in the finals of the Champions and UEFA Cups – though they came to English attention most recently as the outfit who persuaded Everton to part with £3million for Nigerian World Cup forward Daniel Amokachi.

Chelsea's managing director Colin Hutchinson said: "I am delighted with the draw. We played Brugge back in 1971 when we won through and went on to win the Cup." As midfielder Nigel Spackman added: "I'm pleased we've steered clear of Arsenal. Hopefully now we can play them in the Final."

Brugge struggled past League of Ireland side Sligo Rovers in the first round in September but, more impressively, dismissed the Greek league leaders Panathinaikos by the only goal over the two matches in the second round.

Arsenal and Chelsea were both originally drawn to play their home legs first on March 2 but UEFA has switched Chelsea's first game to Belgium, not wanting two European ties in London on the same night.

There are English connections in a third tie where David Platt's Sampdoria of Italy – like Arsenal and Chelsea past winners of the Cup – face Bobby Robson's FC Porto. Sampdoria are still hoping they may be able to persuade UEFA that Ruud Gullit – now back again in Genoa – should not be cup-tied because of his earlier appearances this season for Milan in the Champions League.

In the remaining tie Feyenoord – weakened by the departures to English football of defender John De Wolf and striker John Van Loen – may have their work cut out against Spain's team of the season, Zaragoza.

The draw for the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup managed, remarkably, to keep the three Italian survivors – Juventus, Lazio and Parma – apart. Lazio president Dino Zoff had mixed feelings, though, after his team were drawn to face German league leaders Borussia Dortmund. Zoff said: "Of all the other clubs in the last eight, Dortmund have to be the most difficult."

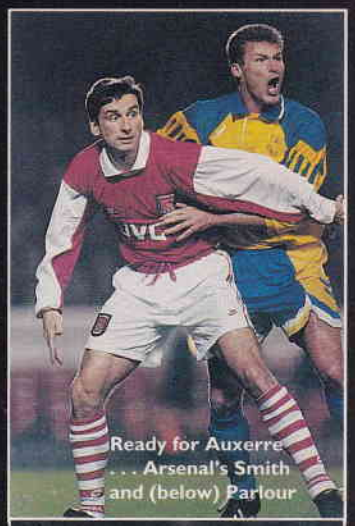
Dortmund were thrashed 6-1 on aggregate by Juventus in the 1993 UEFA Cup Final but have improved immeasurably since then thanks to the return from Italy of midfielder Andy Moller and striker Karlheinz Riedle.

Juventus themselves have also drawn German opposition in Eintracht Frankfurt while Parma – beaten by Arsenal in the Cup-winners Final in Copenhagen last season – take on the Danish outsiders OB Odense, who shocked Europe by knocking out Real Madrid in the third round.

French league leaders Nantes face another German side in former UEFA Cup-winners Bayer Leverkusen, who expect to have veteran spearhead Rudi Voller available. He missed the earlier rounds because he joined Bayer after the European competition transfer deadline this past autumn.

Goodnight Vienna . . . Glenn Hoddle celebrates victory over FK Austria

John's gem . . . Spencer's solo goal for Chelsea in Vienna


Ready for Auxerre . . . Arsenal's Smith and (below) Parlour

Intriguingly, Voller claimed he would have preferred Italian opposition. He said: "The Italians' strengths and weaknesses are well-known while Nantes are a bit of an unknown quantity. Still, at least I suppose they are preferable to having to face one of the other German clubs."

Voller should be of some help to coach Dragoslav Stepanovic off the pitch as well as on it since he knows more about Nantes than most after playing for 18 months in France with Marseille.

CUP-WINNERS CUP
Quarter-finals
(March 2 and 16 unless stated)

Feyenoord Rotterdam (Holland) v Zaragoza (Spain)
Sampdoria (Italy) v FC Porto (Portugal)
Arsenal (England) v Auxerre (France)
Club Brugge (Belgium) v Chelsea (England)*
***to be played Feb 28 and Mar 14**

UEFA CUP
Quarter-finals
(February 28 and March 14)

Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany) v Juventus (Italy)
Lazio (Italy) v Borussia Dortmund (Germany)
Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) v Nantes (France)
Parma (Italy) v OB Odense (Den)

BY PADDY AGNEW

Old Lady on top

Juve been framed . . . Alessandro Del Piero (top) and Fabrizio Ravanelli

Juventus are the new title favourites after victory at Parma sent them clear at the top

JUVENTUS took over at the top in Italy and saw a real prospect of their first league title in nine years open up after they won 3-1 away to Parma.

Two late goals in a four-minute spell from Fabrizio Ravanelli meant Juventus knocked Parma off the top of the championship. Juventus have a two-point lead as well as a game in hand. Roma are third on 27 points.

Ex-Juventus player Dino Baggio gave Parma the lead against the run of play in the 57th minute, converting a pass from Gianfranco Zola. But, within four minutes, Juventus claimed a fortunate equaliser when Parma goalkeeper Giovanni Galli, a first-half substitute for the injured Luca Bucci, misjudged a cross from Paulo Sousa which sailed over his hands and into the net.

It was the Portuguese international's first league goal since his transfer to Juventus last year.

Ravanelli shot Juventus in front in the 70th minute, diving spectacularly to head home a cross from Gianluca Vialli. He added his second from the penalty spot to extend Juventus's unbeaten run to eight matches and bring Parma's series of seven successive home wins to an abrupt halt.

On the last matchday of 1994 Britain's Channel Four had opted for the clash between 'old firms' Roma and Milan at the Olympic Stadium as their live Italian match. This seemed an obvious choice, because it involved the reigning champions of the last three seasons and a former champion seemingly on the way back.

These are fast-changing times in Italian soccer, however, and the real 'Match of the Day' took place between two 'new firms' 500 kilometres away in Bari, where the home side were beaten 2-1 by Parma.

In the long run, Parma's recovery from a 1-0 down could prove a decisive step along the road to winning their first title. Perhaps, too, Milan's dull 0-0 draw away to Roma, followed by another away to Torino in a rescheduled match, finally put a fourth title beyond reach.

Parma's win against Bari was doubly impressive, not only for the recovery but because it made up for a disappointing result one week earlier, when they were held to a 1-1 away draw by Genoa in a game they should have won emphatically.

That had led Parma's influential little schemer, Gianfranco Zola, to comment that if his club lost the title by one or two points, he would go into hiding.

Zola had missed several good chances against Genoa. A week later, however, he compensated by scoring the equaliser in a game which left Parma coach Nevio Scala enthusing: "These are early days and the championship accounts will be settled in May, but I'm very satisfied. After our draw with Genoa many people were saying that we were finished. Against Bari, we proved ourselves to be a very good team."

A week earlier, Parma had been knocked off the top of the table by an improving Juventus side, despite the injury-enforced absence of Roberto Baggio, Didier Deschamps, Luca Fusi and Antonio Conte.

The 'new wave' at Juventus is represented by Alessandro Del Piero, who is 20, and Alessio Tacchinardi and Corrado Grabbi, both 19. Their contributions in the absence of more famous names give Juventus room for optimism about both the long term and the immediate future. Del Piero, in particular, has proved an unexpected trump card, scoring spectacular winners against both Fiorentina and Lazio. His ability to mask Roberto Baggio's absence is undoubtedly one of the reasons why the club president, Roberto Bettega, was sounding particularly hopeful, saying: "It's maybe too early to be talking about winning the title but obviously we fancy our chances . . ."

In the meantime, however, the two Robertos are due for a prolonged *tete-a-tete* in relation to the Baggio contract, up for renewal this summer. He wants a further three years at his current salary of $1.8million a year, while

League and cup trouble . . . Inter's Dennis Bergkamp

Parma playmaker . . . Gianfranco Zola

the club have offered only an annually renewable $1.2million.

Bettega has said that Juventus "would not be going mad" when renewing Baggio's contract, thus sounding the first shot in what will doubtless prove a long session.

The ruling family at Juventus, the Agnellis, want spending reduced, and Bettega finds himself in an unexpectedly strong position regarding the club's star player. Baggio played in only 12 of the club's first 25 games this season, yet Juventus have gone to the top of the table and qualified for the UEFA Cup quarter-finals and the semi-finals of the Coppa Italia.

Furthermore, not only had Del Piero proved to be one of the most exciting young talents in Italian soccer, but the side found or refound other key players in the shape of born-again striker Gianluca Vialli and talented Portuguese schemer Paulo Sousa.

Bettega and the rest of Juventus officialdom continue to say that all clubs envy them for having Baggio, but the reality of a great heresy is obviously never far from their minds. If necessary, Juventus can do without him.

Inter's season ends early

OVER in Milan, Internazionale have little chance of the title and have been eliminated from both the UEFA and Italian Cups.

The Inter season climaxed in a memorable final week of 1994 when they lost 2-0 at home to both Napoli and Lazio in consecutive League fixtures, while on the Wednesday in between they were knocked out of the Italian Cup by Foggia.

Such results were enough to precipitate a crises, which ranged from allegations that disappointing Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp had had a nervous breakdown to the more realistic possibility that the current owner, Ernesto Pellegrini, may be tempted to sell out to Massimo Moratti, son of an Inter president during the club's most successful period, in the 60s.

● GENOA and ex-Juventus goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi, now 37, appears to have ended his first-class career following a major row with Genoa's president, Aldo Spinelli.

According to Spinelli, Tacconi was largely to blame for Genoa's 3-2 defeat by city rivals Sampdoria. Tacconi refuted this thesis with such force that the boss decided to dispense with his services.

For the time being, Tacconi is headed (he says) for a career in acting. He also may be tempted to earn some yen via the Genoa club's Japanese sponsor, Kenwood.

In addition, Tacconi has been offered the centre-forward's jersey in the Charity Pop Stars side, and has been asked to sit on the jury at the ninth annual Miss Splendid Breast contest at San Bartolemeo, near Genoa.

You lose some, you win some.

● NAPOLI, eliminated from the UEFA Cup by Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany, think they may have found a cheeky way back in – Napoli having protested to UEFA that Frankfurt fielded one foreigner more than the regulation three in their European clash.

Napoli claim Eintracht's use of Serb Slobodan Komljenovic in the first leg on November 24 as an assimilated player was 'illega' because he then played for Yugoslavia's national team against Brazil and Argentina. Frankfurt, in the first leg, had also used Pole Jan Furtok, Ghanaian Anthony Yeboah and Nigerian Jay-Jay Okocha.

● VANNI PESSOTTO scored his first Serie A goal in Torino's 2,000th Serie A game, a 1-0 win over Fiorentina, who were without striker Gabriel Batistuta, on duty with Argentina at the Intercontinental Cup in Riyadh.

● ASCOLI will play either Notts County or Stoke City in the Final of the Anglo-Italian Cup. The Serie B side went through on away goals after drawing 2-2 on aggregate with Ancona in the semi-final.

RESULTS

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	14	0	3	1	25	13	33
Parma	15	9	4	2	26	13	31
AS Roma	15	7	6	2	21	8	27
Fiorentina	15	7	5	3	30	20	26
Lazio	15	7	4	4	28	19	25
Sampdoria	15	6	6	3	25	12	24
Bari	15	7	1	7	16	18	22
Foggia	15	5	6	4	18	16	21
Milan	14	4	7	3	11	10	19
Torino	14	5	4	5	13	15	19
Inter	15	4	6	5	12	13	18
Cagliari	15	4	6	5	12	17	18
Napoli	15	3	8	4	20	25	17
Cremonese	15	5	0	10	14	20	15
Padova	15	4	2	9	15	34	14
Genoa	15	3	4	8	17	25	13
Reggiana	14	2	3	9	10	19	9
Brescia	15	1	5	9	8	24	8

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

BRESCIA 1 (Neri 71)
BARI 2 (Tovalieri 47, Baronchelli og 57). **Att:** 9,500.

FIORENTINA 2 (Batistuta pen 59, Vierchowod og 73)
SAMPDORIA 2 (Platt pen 38, Gullit 87). **Att:** 39,000.

FOGGIA 1 (Mandelli 31)
NAPOLI 1 (Bianchini og 58). **Att:** 15,000.

GENOA 0
CREMONESE 1 (Tentoni 37). **Att:** 20,000.

INTER 1 (Sosa pen 23)
PARMA 1 (Branca 61). **Att:** 33,000.

LAZIO 0
AS ROMA 3 (Balbo 3, Cappioli 25, Fonseca 51). **Att:** 78,000.

PADOVA 1 (Kreek 69)
JUVENTUS 2 (Baggio 31, Ravanelli 81). **Att:** 20,000.

REGGIANA 0
CAGLIARI 0. **Att:** 12,500.

TORINO v MILAN — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — QUARTER-FINALS, 1ST LEG

LAZIO 1
NAPOLI 0

INTER 1
FOGGIA 0

PARMA 2
FIORENTINA 0

JUVENTUS 3
AS ROMA 0

WEEKEND

BARI 2 (Tovalieri 6, Amoruso 67)
FOGGIA 1 (Di Biagio 45). **Att:** 25,800.

CAGLIARI 1 (Herrera pen 61)
LAZIO 1 (Fuser 72). **Att:** 17,000.

CREMONESE 0
INTER 1 (Sosa 77). **Att:** 11,600.

JUVENTUS 3 (Vialli 74, 77, Del Piero 88)
FIORENTINA 2 (Baiano 24, Carbone 36). **Att:** 54,000.

NAPOLI 1 (Carbone 52)
TORINO 1 (Angloma 44). **Att:** 29,400.

PARMA 4 (Crippa 45, Zola 59, 64, Baggio 85)
BRESCIA 0. **Att:** 21,300.

AS ROMA 2 (Aldair 65, Cappioli 82)
PADOVA 0. **Att:** 49,500.

SAMPDORIA 3 (Vierchowod 15, Lombardo 24, Maspero 83)
GENOA 2 (Miura 14, Galante 87). **Att:** 40,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WEEKEND

BRESCIA 0
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 9,200.

FIORENTINA 1 (Carboni og 73)
AS ROMA 0. **Att:** 35,400.

FOGGIA 1 (Di Biagio 37)
MILAN 3 (Simone 14, 74, Savicevic 15). **Att:** 15,500.

GENOA 0
PARMA 0. **Att:** 22,000.

INTER 0
NAPOLI 2 (Jonk og 29, Cruz 67). **Att:** 33,000.

LAZIO 3 (Rambaudi 20, Casiraghi 82, Fuser 90)
JUVENTUS 4 (Del Piero 37, 77, Marocchi 53, Grabbi 81). **Att:** 60,696.

PADOVA 2 (Maniero 55, Vlaovic 90)
CAGLIARI 1 (Muzzi 77). **Att:** 12,400.

REGGIANA 2 (Simutenkov 38, Padovano 76 pen)
CREMONESE 0. **Att:** 13,000.

TORINO 2 (Pele 17, Silenzi 89)
BARI 0. **Att:** 19,256.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUF — QUARTER-FINALS, 2ND LEG

FOGGIA 2
INTER 0 *(Aet)*
Foggia won 2-1 on agg

NAPOLI 1
LAZIO 2
Lazio won 3-1 on agg

AS ROMA 3
JUVENTUS 1
Juventus won 4-3 on agg

FIORENTINA 1
PARMA 2
Parma won 4-1 on agg

WEEKEND

BARI 1 (Tovalieri 21)
PARMA 2 (Zola 12, Crippa 77). **Att:** 39,407.

CREMONESE 3 (Pirri 26, Tentoni 38, Chiesa 46)
TORINO 0. **Att:** 6,391.

FIORENTINA 1 (Batistuta pen 53)
FOGGIA 1 (Cappellini 24). **Att:** 34,451.

INTER 0
LAZIO 2 (Cravero 11, Fuser 43). **Att:** 32,792.

JUVENTUS 1 (Ravanelli 76)
GENOA 1 (Galante 89). **Att:** 40,750.

NAPOLI 1 (Cruz 78)
BRESCIA 1 (Corini 28). **Att:** 20,000.

REGGIANA 3 (Padovano pen 6, 50, Esposito 17)
PADOVA 0. **Att:** 12,000.

AS ROMA 0
MILAN 0. **Att:** 64,439.

SAMPDORIA 5 (Lombardo 8, Gullit 14, 18, Mancini 45, Bellucci 67)
CAGLIARI 0. **Att:** 30,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

TORINO 0
MILAN 0. **Att:** 20,000.

WEEK ENDING, SUNDAY JANUARY 8

WEEKEND

BRESCIA 1 (Lupu 29)
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

CAGLIARI 1 (Muzzi 47)
INTER 1 (Sosa 5 pen). **Att:** 10,000.

FOGGIA 2 (Bresciani 59, Cappellini 78)
GENOA 1 (Onorati 67). **Att:** 10,000.

MILAN 1 (Simone 73)
NAPOLI 1 (Cannavaro 89). **Att:** 60,000.

PADOVA 3 (Longhi 20, 40 pen, 90 pen)
CREMONESE 2 (Pirri 45 pen, Milanese 72). **Att:** 15,000.

PARMA 1 (D Baggio 57)
JUVENTUS 3 (Paulo Sousa 61, Ravenelli 70, 74 pen). **Att:** 28,000.

AS ROMA 2 (Balbo 69, Totti 86)
BARI 0. **Att:** 54,000.

TORINO 1 (Pessotto 35)
FIORENTINA 0. **Att:** 18,000.

SAMPDORIA 3 (Mihaljlovic 7, Platt 34, 50)
LAZIO 1 (Signori 11). **Att:** 20,000.

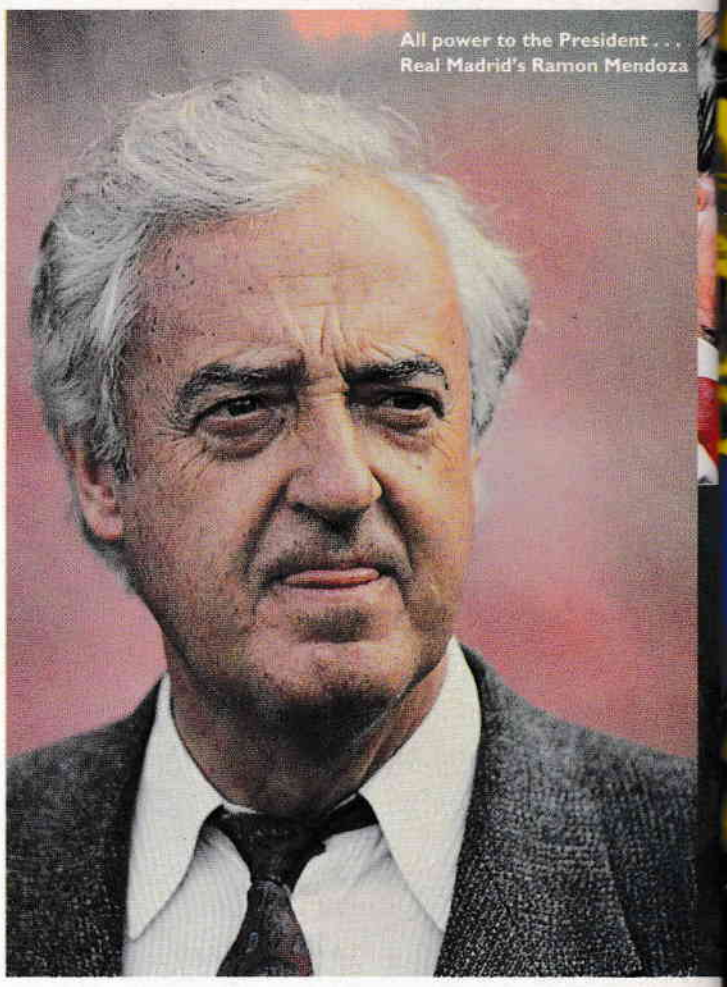
LEADING SCORERS

1 .....Gabriel **BATISTUTA** (Fiorentina) ...14
2 .....Abel **BALBO** (AS Roma) 9
3 .....Giuseppe **SIGNORI** (Lazio).....8
4 .....Gianfranco **ZOLA** (Parma) 7
5 .....Ruud **GULLIT** (Milan-Sampdoria)....6
Ruben **SOSA** (Internazionale) 6
Gianluca **VIALLI** (Juventus) 6

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Power games

Ramon Mendoza has a Real fight on hands as he bids to stay in control of the league leaders


All power to the President . . . Real Madrid's Ramon Mendoza

THE power battle at Real Madrid is hotting up. Ramon Mendoza has stood down and called presidential elections for February 19.

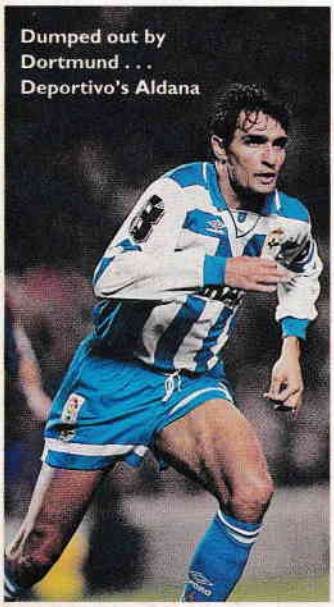
This time last year he made it clear that he was toying with a definitive resignation but, encouraged by the new-found charisma instilled by Jorge Valdano, he has decided to throw his hat into the ring again.

But his bid is running into stiff opposition. The club's appalling financial situation and Mendoza's uncharismatic style of leadership have drawn all sorts of creatures great and small out of the woodwork.

Arch-enemies Barcelona rate Mendoza's performance so negative that they want him to continue.

Mendoza has countered this with some scathing criticisms of the Catalans and called the Barcelona president, Josep Lluis Nunez, "a pathetically miserable wretch" for trying to rock the Real boat by declared intentions of poaching Emilio Butragueno when his contract expires in June.

Normally this type of 'politicking' would have only relative importance but, with Barcelona having stolen much of Real's aura of sanctity in recent years, and having outstripped them in financial stability and specific gravity within governing bodies such as the Spanish Federation and UEFA committees, these elections could represent a landmark.


Dumped out by Dortmund . . . Deportivo's Aldana

But ousting Mendoza is not just a question of standing up and shouting "I am the greatest" or "With me as president we'll win our seventh Champions Cup" (a prediction made by all and sundry).

At the time of writing, the campaign is still in its first stage, where potential candidates have to collect enough signatures to demonstrate the support of a reasonable percentage of the club's 65,641 'socios'.

The exact figure, once under-18s and socios enrolled during the past 12 months have been pruned out, is 1,882 signatures.

The most daunting challenge, however, is putting your money where your mouth is. Candidates are required to produce bank guarantees for 15 per cent of the club's estimated turnover for the season and, with Real operating on a budget of over £40million, this means putting up collateral totalling some £6.2million. Chicken-feed.

Even so, the campaign started with five candidates to rule the roost.

Florentino Perez wasted no time in setting out an impressive stall, distributing a coherent manifesto and placing half-page ads in all the relevant papers. He has been a socio since 1961, has resisted Mendoza's attempts to recruit him as a board member, and now claims to have the backing of four influential ex-directors who left in disgust at Mendoza's *modus operandi*.

His commercial *savoir-faire* is backed by the performance of his construction company, OCP, which turns over some £600million per year.

Santiago Gomez Pintado is a former Real, Atletico and Spanish Under-21 player who did not become a socio until he was 55, three years ago. He forged close links with the club while Real were wearing the name of his company, Otaysa, on their shirts.

Jesus Nogal was the surprise challenger, having failed to clear the first hurdle last time round. He is president of a travel company, and his speciality has been sound work in the youth scheme.

Juan Miguel Villar Mir was last but definitely not least. A widely-respected former vice-president of the Spanish Government and Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was a major coup when Mendoza persuaded him to withdraw his candidacy and nail his colours to the Mendoza mast.

While awaiting developments, the players have made a small donation to the crisis fund by agreeing to a new bonus structure which will leave them peseta-less if they fail to win anything. But the pact with Mendoza guarantees them a £1.5million share-out if they win the League, £750,000 for the UEFA Cup, and £250,000 if they carry off the Copa del Rey.

Down at Nou Camp, financial incentives have become of a bonus of contention between Johan Cruyff and Josep Lluis Nunez.

Cruyff is whingeing about bonuses "out of step with the pots of money the club earn in the Champions League". In fact Barcelona have thus far earned less than last season, but Cruyff's underlying gripe is that the club benefit from a huge merchandising operation using the 'image' clause written into staff contracts.

Cruyff also has refused to take part in 'flash interviews' after European games, objecting to standing in front of boards "advertising sponsors who pay me nothing."

The pots of dosh went close to going to pot. Only a header from Bakero, reminiscent of the one in Kaiserslautern which kept Barca on course for the Wembley final three seasons ago, gave them the point they needed against IFK Gothenburg in the final fixture.

But joy in Barcelona was unbridled. Not so much because of the side's form, which continued to be less than scintillating, but because Real Madrid had been humiliated in the Bernabeu stadium by Odense.

That was the worst thing Mendoza could have scripted. He had timed the elections on the basis of European survival until the Spring, and the shock defeat by the Danes – in two previous confrontations they had scored one goal and conceded 22 – was election campaign manna to his presidential rivals. Unexpected elimination caused financial damage valued at some £5million.

Deportivo and Athletic Bilbao at least managed to bow out of the UEFA Cup after laudable performances against opposition of the highest order.

La Coruna, remember, were applauded from the pitch after their extra-time defeat in Dortmund, a defeat so cruel that midfielder Adolfo Aldana, for example, recalled the savagery of their fate last season, when they lost the League by missing a penalty in the last minute of the last game.

"We have to be very careful," he warned. This match could do a lot of psychological damage."

Bilbao's respectable 4-2 scoreline against Parma was due to the peculiar resilience unfurled at Newcastle in the previous round, when they came back from 3-0 down to score the two goals that ultimately won the tie.

A makeshift Parma looked ripe for a fall but the Basques, once again, showed no reaction until they were three goals adrift.

At a stroke, the Spanish armada was reduced to Barcelona – limbering up for Paris St Germain in the Champions Cup quarter-final over two legs in March – and Zaragoza.

Bernabeu battering . . . Johan Cruyff

Out until the summer. . . Real Madrid's Michel

Massacre at the Bernabeu

JOHAN CRUYFF faces one of the greatest tests of his managerial career in the wake of Barcelona's 5-0 thrashing by oldest rivals Real Madrid.

In the Estadio Bernabeu on the restart of the league season after a three-week winter break, it was the pace of Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano which viciously exposed Barcelona's lack of both pace and self-control.

Zamorano collected a hat-trick in a first half which ended with Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov being sent off in his first competitive appearance since being crowned European Footballer of the Year. The Bulgarian could consider himself lucky that his tackle only bruised, and did not break, the right leg of Madrid defender Quique Flores.

Dutchman Ronald Koeman, the principal victim of Zamorano's hat-trick show, was fortunate not to have been sent off as well in the first half after an appalling in-your-face assault on Madrid midfielder Luis Milla.

It was sweet revenge for an equally humiliating 5-0 defeat inflicted on Madrid by the Catalans in Camp Nou stadium almost a year ago to the day. Zamorano said: "If we go on like this until the end of the season we will really give the fans something to celebrate."

Barcelona coach Cruyff said: "With a defeat like that there can be no excuses. I can't look some of my players in the eye."

Much of Madrid's inspiration came from Michael Laudrup, who joined them only last summer from Barcelona. He said: "I needed a new challenge to get my game going again." In Spain challenges do not come any greater than playing for Madrid against Barcelona.

Cruyff sat impassive on the Barcelona trainer's bench as the over-powering Zamorano created further goals for Luis Enrique and Jose Emilio Amavisca in the second half. Even the introduction of Brazilian World Cup-winner

Madrid's victory lifted them into a two-point lead in the championship since closest pursuers Zaragoza went down to a 3-2 defeat at promoted Compostela.

● ROMARIO'S appearance as a second-half substitute failed to lift Barcelona. Romario had started on the bench because Cruyff feared his mind might be distracted by negotiations for his transfer home to Flamengo of Brazil.

Romario says he is homesick. Flamengo have offered $4million, Barcelona are demanding $10million. Not that Barcelona are short of money, of course.

● REAL MADRID went into the Barcalona game having suffered a double injury blow . . . Michel out for seven months, Redondo out for two. Michel ruptured cruciate knee ligaments in the game against Real Sociedad in San Sebastian, and a week later Redondo also injured a knee, during the home match with Oviedo.

● NIGERIAN World Cup striker Rashidi Yekini, out of favour with Greek club Olympiakos since October, has joined Sporting Gijon. Meanwhile, Sevilla have taken Romanian Ille Dumitrescu from Tottenham on loan until the end of the season.

● HRISTO STOICHKOV was the clear winner of the European Footballer of the Year award. Stoichkov beat second-placed Roberto Baggio, last year's winner, 210 points to 136 in the poll of European sports journalists. Paolo Maldini, *WORLD SOCCER*'s Player of the Year, was third with 109 points, while Tomas Brolin and Gheorge Hagi tied for fourth place with 68 points. Stoichkov was named winner by the weekly magazine *France Football* on a live French television show, appearing with his Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff, himself a three-time winner of the Golden Ball.

THE VOTING

1	Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria, Barcelona)	210
2	Roberto Baggio (Italy, Juventus)	136
3	Paolo Maldini (Italy, Milan)	109
4=	Tomas Brolin (Sweden, Parma)	68
4=	Gheorghe Hagi (Romania, Barcelona)	68
6	Jurgen Klinsmann (Germany, Tottenham)	43
7	Thomas Ravelli (Sweden, Gothenburg)	21
8	Jari Litmanen (Finland, Ajax)	12
9=	Marcel Desailly (France, Milan)	8
9=	Dejan Savicevic (Yugoslavia, Milan)	8

RESULTS

PRIMERA DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	16	11	3	2	42	15	25
Real Zaragoza	16	10	3	3	27	18	23
La Coruna	16	8	6	2	30	16	22
Barcelona	16	8	4	4	26	21	20
Athletico Bilbao	16	8	3	5	15	15	19
Real Betis	16	5	8	3	22	10	18
Espanol	16	6	6	4	25	16	18
Sevilla	16	7	4	5	21	16	18
Celta	16	5	7	4	17	20	17
Compostela	16	6	4	6	22	24	16
Tenerife	16	5	5	6	22	21	15
Real Sociedad	16	4	6	6	19	19	14
Valencia	16	5	4	7	22	24	14
Santander	16	5	3	8	18	21	13
Real Oviedo	16	6	3	8	13	18	13
Albacete	16	4	5	7	21	29	13
Sporting Gijon	16	4	5	7	18	29	13
Atletico Madrid	16	5	2	9	25	25	12
Valladolid	16	3	5	8	9	31	11
Logrones	16	0	6	10	5	28	6

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

ALBACETE 2 (Santi 25, Cordero 39)
ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Kiko 67, Caminero 71). Att: 12,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Guerrero 51)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. Att: 35,000.

BARCELONA 0
SEVILLA 1 (Suker 7). Att: 80,000.

REAL BETIS 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. Att: 30,000.

CELTA 0
REAL OVIEDO 0. Att: 18,000.

LA CORUNA 4 (Claudio 10, Manjarin 21, Julio Salinas 64, 66)
REAL VALLADOLID 0. Att: 22,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Muniz pen 58)
COMPOSTELA 1 (Lucas 63). Att: 16,000.

LOGRONES 2 (Silvio 10, Jose Ignacio 45)
VALENCIA 2 (Roberto 39, Mijatovic 65). Att: 8,000.

RACING SANTANDER 0
ESPANOL 0. Att: 15,000.

REAL MADRID 4 (Quique 24, Amavisca 33, Zamorano 58, Martin Vazquez 66)
TENERIFE 2 (Chano pen 28, Pizzi 74). Att: 100,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

WEEKEND

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Simeone 35, 65)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Goicoechea 64). Att: 55,000.

BARCELONA 1 (Koeman 33)
LA CORUNA 1 (Julio Salinas 90). Att: 85,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Kodro 90)
REAL MADRID 1 (Hierro pen 62). Att: 28,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Roberto 12, Salenko pen 24, 89 pen)
ALBACETE 3 (Bjelica 44, Andonov 47, Zalazar pen 90). Att: 40,000.

COMPOSTELA 2 (Christensen 8, Lucas 53)
SANTANDER 1 (Luis 19). Att: 8,000.

REAL OVIEDO 0
REAL BETIS 0. Att: 18,000.

SEVILLA 3 (Suker 9, Rafa Paz 17, Monchu 52)
ESPANOL 0. Att: 40,000.

TENERIFE 4 (Llorente 15, Juanele 44, 61, Latorre 78)
LOGRONES 0. Att: 10,000.

VALLADOLID 1 (Nilson pen 85)
CELTA 1 (Losada 48). Att: 12,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Pardeza 47, 51, Santiago Aragon pen 56)
SPORTING GIJON 2 (Pier 10, Marcos Vales 60). Att: 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WEEKEND

REAL BETIS 1 (Kowalczyk 57)
REAL VALLADOLID 2 (Nilson 8, Quevedo 13). Att: 30,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Guerrero 2, 21)
VALENCIA 1 (Penev 8). Att: 36,000.

ALBACETE 2 (Zalazar 76, Dertycia 87)
TENERIFE 1 (Chano 61). Att: 13,000.

CELTA 2 (Losada 89, Gudelj 90)
BARCELONA 4 (Stoichkov 12, Romario 54, Koeman pen 81, Hagi 90). Att: 20,000.

LA CORUNA 5 (Julio Salinas 4, 44, Aldana 37, Fran 38, 81)
SEVILLA 1 (Suker 88). Att: 23,000.

ESPANOL 2 (Francisco 63, Luis 73)
COMPOSTELA 0. Att: 20,000.

SPORTING GIJON 0
ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Caminero 8, Simeone 57). Att: 25,00.

LOGRONES 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 4 (Luis Perez 36 60, Kodro 42, 61). Att: 12,000.

RACING SANTANDER 0
ZARAGOZA 1 (Merino og 78). Att: 15,000.

REAL MADRID 2 (Raul 57, Laudrup 60)
REAL OVIEDO 0. Att: 90,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

WEEKEND

SPANISH CUP — 3RD ROUND, 1ST LEG

EXTREMADURA v VALLADOLID — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

ATLETICO MADRID 0
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Popov 21). Att: 35,000.

BARCELONA 1 (Alexis pen 65)
REAL BETIS 1 (Abelardo 88). Att: 70,000.

LA CORUNA 1 (Bebeto 77)
CELTA 2 (Gudelj 3, Bebeto 77). Att: 25,000.

REAL OVIEDO 1 (Carlos 55)
LOGRONES 0. Att: 12,000.

SEVILLA 3 (Suker pen 22, 63, Tevenet 84)
COMPOSTELA 0. Att: 30,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 61, De Pedro 78)
ALBACETE 0. Att: 10,000.

TENERIFE 1 (Pinilla 55)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. Att: 18,000.

VALENCIA 0
SPORTING GIJON 0. Att: 40,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Poyet 49)
ESPANOL 0. Att: 25,000.

VALLADOLID 0
REAL MADRID 5 (Luis Enrique 3, Zamorano 12, 31, Raul 51, Alfonso 74). Att: 19,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

WEEKEND

REAL MADRID 5 (Zamorano 5, 21, 39, Luis Enrique 69, Amavisca 70)
BARCELONA 0. Att: 107,000.

ESPANOL 2 (Raducioiu 4, 77)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. Att: 32,600.

REAL BETIS 0
LA CORUNA 0. Att: 45,200.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. Att: 36,000.

CELTA VIGO 0
SEVILLA 0. Att: 27,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Pier 80)
TENERIFE 1 (Pizzi 90). Att: 26,000.

RACING SANTANDER 3 (Villabona 52, Tomas 63, Inaki 68)
VALENCIA 2 (Penev 54, Mijatovic 72). Att: 19,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Bjelica 42)
REAL OVIEDO 0. Att: 11,000.

LOGRONES 0
REAL VALLADOLID 0. Att: 9,000.

COMPOSTELA 3 (Christensen 8, Ohen 15, 45)
ZARAGOZA 2 (Pardeza 32, 67). Att: 10,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....Ivan **ZAMORANO** (Real Madrid) 17
2 .....Meho **KODRO** (Real Sociedad).....12
3 .....Pedrag **MIJATOVIC** (Valencia).....9
4 .....Jose **AMAVISCA** (Real Madrid) 8
Davor **SUKER** (Sevilla) 8

Germany

Cesar conquers

Arthur Rotmil on a player's debt to his fans

FOR BRAZILIAN centre-back Julio Cesar, playing in Germany for table-toppers Borussia Dortmund, it was nearly the last straw – he had been refused admission to a local disco because he is black.

"I have heard that racism has been raising its ugly head in Germany again, but I could not believe that an allegedly reputable nightclub would stop me from getting in," he said.

According to reports, Cesar, capped 61 times by Brazil, was ready to pack his belongings and leave Dortmund, but was persuaded to stay by the club's directors, manager, players and above all, fans.

They protested furiously against the ill-treatment of their favourite and demonstrated their outrage by carrying huge placards, some reading "BVB Fans Against Racism. Julio, Stay!!!"

Other Brazilians in the Bundesliga, such as Jorginho (Bayern Munich), Sergio (Bayer Leverkusen) and Dunga (Stuttgart), are reported to be unhappy at the undercurrent of racism from anti-social elements. Indeed, Jorginho is moving to Japan shortly *(see page 49)*.

Cesar praises the Dortmund fans who idolise him and recalls: "I also had a very good rapport with the Juventus supporters."

His problems include the language barrier and he says: "I am having lessons three times a week. Until I learn some German I will continue to talk with some of my team-mates in Italian. Reuter, Sammer, Riedle and Moller have all played for Italian clubs and speak that language."

Cesar joined Borussia together with Moller. "Juventus wanted to keep me, but although I was earning much more money than here, the pressure in Italy was at times unbearable," he reflects.

He lives alone. "I like to relax on my own," he claims, though he expects girlfriend Rita to join him soon.

Now 31, Cesar began his career with two middle-order Brazilian clubs. After appearing in the 1986 Mexico World Cup, where he played in every match, he signed for French club Stade Brest, but moved on to Montpellier after just one season.

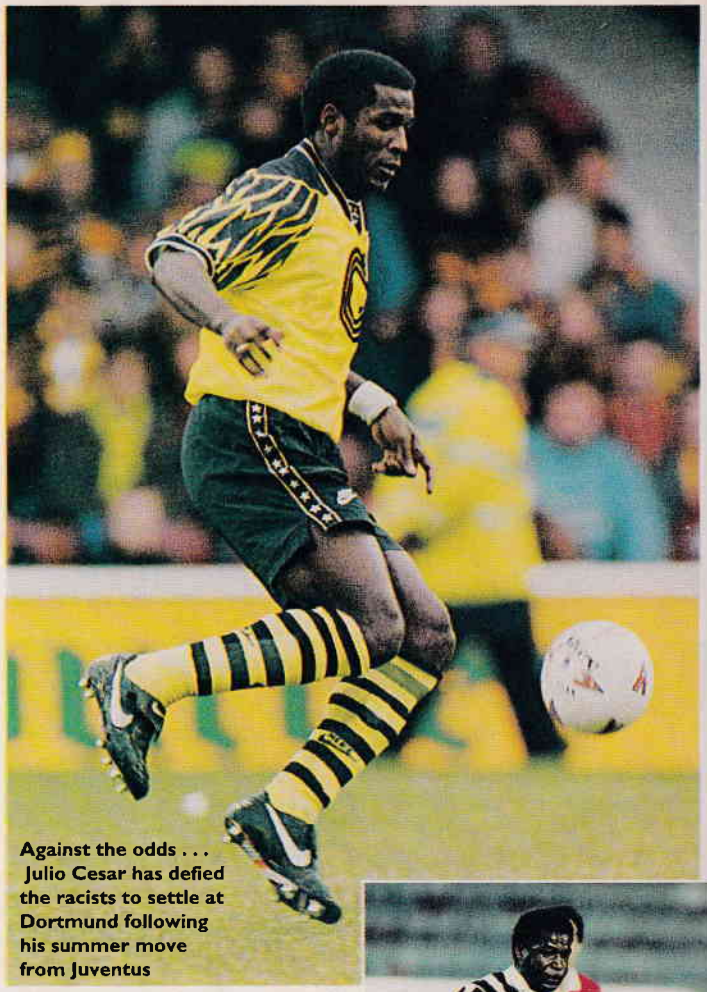
> *'I could not believe that a reputable nightclub would stop me from getting in'*

Three years and a French Cup-winners medal later, in 1990, he was snapped up by Juventus and won the UEFA Cup with them in 1993. He remained in Turin until last summer, when Dortmund hired him in a deal with Moller worth nearly £5million. Cesar did not play in the 1994 World Cup finals because he fell out with the Brazilian FA last year and vowed he would never play for his country again.

Who does he miss most? "My family, my mother, granny and my brother. When I left for Europe, I said I would be away for five years. Now it is eight years and my folks implore me to return home.

"But at the moment it is too early and I shall probably end my career in Europe."

He does not say in which country, but any more incidents of racial discrimination may well prompt the proud Silva Julio Cesar to quit German football and pitch his tent elsewhere.



Against the odds . . . Julio Cesar has defied the racists to settle at Dortmund following his summer move from Juventus

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Nerlinger 43, Matthaus pen 75)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Kirsten 31). **Att:** 45,000.

BOCHUM 2 (Waldoch 31, Wegmann pen 55)
BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Passlack 87). **Att:** 22,276.

BORUSSIA MG 3 (Herrlich 19, Dahlin 81, Fach 90)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Zorc 11, Chapuisat 24, Chapuisat 45). **Att:** 34,500.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Ekstrom 68)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Schmitt 74). **Att:** 12,000.

FREIBURG 2 (Todt 48, Cardoso pen 62)
VfB STUTTGART 0. **Att:** 17,500.

HAMBURG 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 0. **Att:** 25,000.

KOLN 2 (Polster 70, Janssen 86)
1860 MUNICH 1 (Pacult 78). **Att:** 20,000.

WERDER BREMEN 2 (Hobsch 49, A. Herzog 62) **SCHALKE 1** (A. Muller 80). **Att:** 31,940.

DUISBURG 1 (Hopp 2)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

BOCHUM 0
KARLSRUHE 1 (Schmitt 36). **Att:** 22,494.

BORUSSIA MG 1 (Herrlich 25)
BAYER UERDINGEN 0. **Att:** 29,700.

KOLN 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 32). **Att:** 28,000.

WEEKEND

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Riedle 45)
DUISBURG 0. **Att:** 42,800.

KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 81)
1860 MUNICH 1 (Winkler 54). **Att:** 38,900.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Voller 19, Scholz 38, Munch 87)
KOLN 1 (Labbadia 21). **Att:** 27,600.

BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Ziege 57, 59)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Lesiak 85). **Att:** 34,000.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Legat pen 1, Furtok 88)
HAMBURG 0. **Att:** 28,000.

KARLSRUHE 3 (Hassler 42, Schmitt 78, Bender 86)
WERDER BREMEN 1 (A. Herzog 24). **Att:** 29,000.

VfB STUTTGART 2 (Bobic 27, Kruse 34)
BORUSSIA MG 4 (Herrlich 49, Neun 77, Dahlin 83, Fach 90). **Att:** 38,000.

BAYER UERDINGEN 0
FREIBURG 2 (U. Spies 2, Cardoso pen 62). **Att:** 10,514.

SCHALKE 3 (Anderbrugge pen 26, Latal 36, H. Herzog 85)
BOCHUM 2 (Anerbrugge pen 26, Latal 36). **Att:** 40,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WEEKEND

FREIBURG 3 (Cardoso pen 45), U. Spies 75, Kohl 89)
SCHALKE 0. **Att:** 17,500.

DUISBURG 2 (Westerbeek 5, Azzouzi 89)
VfB STUTTGART 0. **Att:** 15,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Ekstrom 64)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Voller 78). **Att:** 14,800.

HAMBURG 0
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 4 (Sammer 53, Zorc 56, 62, 79 pen). **Att:** 61,234.

1860 MUNICH 2 (Dowe 9, Nowak 50)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Legat 90). **Att:** 28,500.

WERDER BREMEN 0
BAYERN MUNICH 0. **Att:** 40,633.

LEADING SCORERS

1	Rodolfo **CARDOSO** (Freiburg)	13
2	Heiko **HERRLICH** (Borussia MG)	11
3	Stephane **CHAPUISAT** (Bor Dortmund)	10
	Andy **MOLLER** (Bor Dortmund)	10
5	Toni **POLSTER** (Koln)	9
6	Mario **BASLER** (Werder Bremen)	8
	Marco **BODE** (Werder Bremen)	8
	Rudi **VOLLER** (Bayer Leverkusen)	8
	Michael **ZORC** (Bor Dortmund)	8

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Borussia Dortmund	17	12	4	1	40	14	28
Werder Bremen	17	10	4	3	31	19	24
Borussia MG	17	9	5	3	37	21	23
Freiburg	17	10	3	4	35	21	23
Bayern Munich	17	7	8	2	31	22	22
Kaiserslautern	17	8	6	3	25	20	22
Karlsruhe	17	7	7	3	28	23	21
Bayer Leverkusen	17	6	8	3	31	21	20
Hamburg	17	7	4	6	26	21	18
VfB Stuttgart	17	6	4	7	31	35	16
Eintracht Frankfurt	17	6	4	7	19	25	16
Schalke	17	4	7	6	22	24	15
Koln	17	4	5	8	26	36	13
Bayer Uerdingen	17	2	6	9	15	26	10
Munich 1860	17	2	6	9	17	30	10
Dynamo Dresden	17	3	4	10	17	31	10
Bochum	17	3	2	12	18	39	8
Duisburg	17	2	3	12	12	33	7

Bayern's best arrives late

BAYERN MUNICH have vindicated their faith in Italian manager Giovanni Trapattoni.

After weeks under fire for erratic displays, they saved their best performance of the half season for the last match in Group A of the Champions League.

The Bavarians, needing to beat Dynamo Kiev away to qualify for the quarter-finals, did so in style, winning 4-1. Now, Trapattoni, whose job was said to be already on the line, is being hailed as a tactical genius.

His Italian strategy of sweeping counter-attacks using diagonal passes to swiftly advancing wingers paid off handsomely.

Victory silenced, if only temporarily, the voices of doom. Whether the team can keep the momentum going in the championship is of course quite another matter.

Rumblings of discontent behind the scenes have not been quelled, while some of the pronouncements by members of the board and leading players have startled the public.

Team captain Lothar Matthaus caused a rumpus that is still being debated. He accused World Cup referee Helmut Krug of having been bribed by Karlsruhe and was fined £10,000 and banned for one match.

The mild verdict – probably because the player apologised publicly – was described by the media as "laughable". Four years ago Michael Schulz, then with Borussia Dortmund, was charged with a similar offence and suspended for five weeks.

Table-topping Borussia Dortmund, also UEFA Cup quarter-finalists, claimed the unofficial title of Winter Champions, leading the pack at the break.

The championship will resume on February 18, though the national team were engaged before Christmas in two European Championship qualifying ties, in Moldova and against Albania.

Gates were still holding up well at over 30,000 per match on average.

For the first time in the 32-year history of the Bundesliga three players refused to take part in a match.

Eintracht Frankfurt's Africans, captain Anthony Yeboah and Jay-Jay Okocha, plus Italian-born Maurizio Gaudino, would not play against Hamburg. They were promptly suspended and put on the transfer list.

The rebels, all internationals, fell out with coach Jupp Heynckes, who accused them of lack of professionalism, lackadaisical attitude and inadequate effort in training and matches. Clearly their futures lie elsewhere.

Ochocha has spoken pubicly of his discontent *(see interview, page 44)*, while Gaudino has moved to England. The 28-year-old midfielder has joined Manchester City in a £200,000 loan deal. He will will stay at Maine Road until the end of the season.

The Bundesliga clubs turned over £40million on new players, but so far only a handful have fulfilled expectations. The bargain of the season has been midfielder Jorg Heinrich, aged 24, of Freiburg, signed from amateur club Kickers Emden for only £40,000.

Maine Road man . . . Maurizio Gaudino

He began his career in the old East Germany and was voted last season's Player of the Year by the managers of Germany's amateur clubs. His value has now shot up tenfold.

Another rising star is 23-year-old Fredi Bobic, who scored 16 goals for Second Division Stuttgarter Kickers before joining the other local club, VfB Stuttgart, for £500,000.

Bobic, who started as a junior with VfB, scored five goals in his first five Bundesliga matches and made a rapid international debut, in the 0-0 draw with Hungary in October.

Uli Stein, the controversial goalkeeper now with Hamburg, is the oldest active Bundesliga player, having recently celebrated his 40th birthday.

Andy Moller, the great enigma of German football, is back with Borussia Dortmund. Since returning from Italy his displays have often infuriated the national coach, Berti Vogts. For his club he is top, in national colours a flop – that would be the most accurate assessment of the moody Andy.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Rising star . . . Fredi Bobic.

Austria

Pay day for Salzburg

AUSTRIA SALZBURG made a valiant effort to qualify for the European Cup quarter-finals, but just failed.

They needed only a draw in Vienna in their last match, only for Cup-holders Milan to win 1-0.

Austrian football can still take heart from the spirited exploits of the 'Mozart boys', who created several clear chances only to find keeper Sebastiano Rossi in unbeatable form.

By way of consolation Salzburg earned over £6million from the European Cup – more than any other Austrian club in the history of European cup competition.

In the championship, FC Austria were the leaders going into the winter break.

Their German team manager Egon Coordes, still "at war" with the Austrian media, is confident that the 'Violets' can win their 23rd league title, especially as their biggest rivals, defending holders, Salzburg, are bound to feel deflated following elimination from the European Cup.

The Viennese are planning to recruit new stars and there is even talk of re-engaging former top striker Toni Polster, now 30.

After a year in Germany with Koln, where he was top scorer, he is unsettled and says: "If a lucrative offer were to be made, I would have to consider it."

Polster has played for three Spanish clubs and one Italian side since leaving FK Austria, and has appeared in over 60 internationals.

Koln offered him a two-year extension to his existing contract, and other interested clubs, said to include Salzburg, Monaco and Sparta Prague, could not or would not match his salary demands, so he is likely to stay put, for the time being at least. Austrian clubs strapped for cash are unable to compete with western European clubs and are forced to seek fresh talent in Eastern Europe.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Wanted back home . . . Toni Polster

Switzerland

Holz money is not enough

THE QUALIFYING stage in the Swiss National League A ended in bitter disappointment for two clubs rich in tradition: champions Servette Geneva and FC Zurich.

Both have been demoted to the relegation play-off round and, like two other old campaigners, St Gallen and Young Boys Berne, are facing heavy financial losses.

Servette will almost certainly dispense with luckless team manager Ilija Petkovic after only one year in office. President Sven Hotz has invested millions in the club, but could not buy success.

The first goal of the season by Lucerne defender Peter Gmur was his team's most important, and the most spectacular of the season. From fully 45 yards he hit the net for a 2-1 win which saved Lucerne and plunged Zurich into mourning.

But with the fewest wins (four) and most draws (11), Zurich could not complain about their fate.

For the third time in five years they will be fighting against relegation. Nine-times champions and five-times Cup-winners, they are once more sentenced to a bleak second phase of the season. No wonder the fans stay away – only 4,882 on average watched their home games in Switzerland's largest city.

While the top Swiss strikers are hitting the target for clubs abroad, nearly half the goals in the championship have been scored by imported 'legionaires'. The few home-bred marksmen are mostly past their prime, such as Dario Zuffi (Basel) and Christoph Bonvin (Sion).

So as soon as a club hits a bad patch, instead of giving youth the chance, they go out and engage a foreign striker.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

France

Rai of sunshine

Brazilian shines in Paris Saint-Germain side with sights set on European Champions Cup

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN are through to the quarter-finals of the European Cup, thus keeping alive the dearest ambition of their young manager, Luis Fernandez, in his first season.

But their performance in Munich, when Weah's superlative individual goal beat a Bayern team who probably should have had a penalty, had a smack of the Artur Jorge about it. And thus scarcely conformed with the flip side of the manager's ambitions: to engender a football played for fun, rather than merely to win.

For PSG without Rai were nothing if not super functional; at least until that wonderful goal. Weah, be it noted, went on only after 64 minutes.

Lothar Matthaus, who looked Bayern's best player, had this to say: "Did Paris enchant me? No, no, that's not the word. They're a machine. Yes, a very realistic group who profit from the smallest failing by the opposition. And Bayern were so unproductive that there's no call to be astonished by the result."

Giovanni Trapattoni, the Italian manager of Bayern, was also less than ecstatic: "I wasn't astonished by this Parisian team. I knew it was organised and disciplined. Quite simply, strong. Very strong. Quite simply, one of the best in Europe, believe me."

It's nice to do so, especially after the ups and downs of the French national team and the seemingly eternal controversy over Eric Cantona, of whom, in the words of one French journalist of renown, to me: "Everybody is afraid."

So can PSG win the European Cup? Perhaps not, even if Fernandez likes to evoke the example of Barcelona: "In football, you have to play. Think of enjoyment before organisation. Look at Barcelona; it's exactly like that. It's football, and only football, which interests me. I prefer to win 4-3 rather 1-0."

A bit ironic, in the circumstances. And Rai? Last season, his first in France, he was a tremendous disappointment, quite outshone by his fellow Brazilian, Valdo, to whom his preference in the Brazil World Cup squad seemed quite inexplicable. In the event, Rai did not hold his place for the Los Angeles Final.

Rai says that to play really well, both mind and body must be in shape. Then creativity and inspiration follow.

The difference this season, Rai says, is that he is more consistent. Last season, though not at his best, he had some good games. People want you to play well all the time, he complains.

He began well, with some excellent goals. After that, he says, there were times when he was very useful to the team without taking the eye; something the fans do not always pick up on.

Before going to Paris, he says, he had had two very exhausting seasons with Sao Paulo, and he had trouble adjusting to new styles of life and of play.

"I'm not the first to whom that has happened," says Rai, with some justice. And even in Brazil, he insists, he was not always in top form. It was just that he came good on the important occasions. "And then, to be at top level for 12 years, it's unthinkable."

Although criticism was sometimes wholesale in France, by contrast with Brazil, where, he says, even when he was off-form nobody denied he was a great player, he did not for a moment doubt himself.

Back to his best . . . Rai

"In my head, I knew I was doing everything necessary. So I didn't feel culpable. And so far as being a man is concerned, I'm untouchable."

He admits being slow, but says: "If every player was like me, the team wouldn't function. But a team made up just of fast players would have just as many problems. It's a question of proportion. In my view, it's a good thing to mix the styles."

Rai reads Camus, Moliere, Ionesco, likes going to the theatre and enjoys Parisian life. And shrugs off all the summer rumours that Fernandez would have liked to get rid of him.

When Fernandez arrived, replacing Jorge – with whom Rai says he got on well, partly no doubt because both speak Portuguese – Rai was not perturbed: "In training, in matches, I think I showed myself to be convincing."

PSG he believes, have the capacity to beat any team. But the long winter gap in the tournament, which lasts until March, will not make it easy. "We are not the favourites, but we have a good chance of winning."

And the French League? "Nantes are a very good team, but I believe in us."

ANDRE DUCLOS

Tapie sells out

BERNARD TAPIE has stepped down as president of Marseille, relinquishing his shares in the club, to be replaced by former TV anchorman Pierre Cangioni.

So Tapie has gone, but not before he toppled yet another manager, Marc Bourrier, setting in motion a chaotic chain of events.

Former boss Gerard Gili, recently sacked by Montpellier, the club he left Marseille for, returned only to walk out less than two weeks later. According to Cangioni, Gili quit because he was not offered a contract. Marseille are now reported to want Bourrier back as caretaker boss.

Things had not being going well for Bourrier and Marseille; overtaken in the Second Division by Guingamp, pitched out of the UEFA Cup by Sion, with a thud, and eliminated from the French Cup by struggling Niort.

Stephane Carnot, who keeps the Guingamp attack on the move, admits that there was something of a falling off in November, but says that always seems to happen, perhaps because of the accumulation of fixtures.

"We feel that nothing catastrophic can happen to us," he says. "There is great team spirit, and a solid defence."

- THE NATIONAL side scored their first goals and recorded their first win in their European Championship campaign with a 2-0 victory over Azerbaijan. The goals came from Jean-Pierre Papin and Patrice Loko.
- SOCHAUX, who currently lie bottom of the league, have sacked coach Sylvester Takac. Yugoslav-born Takac has been replaced by Jacques Santini, former coach at Toulouse, Lille and St Etienne.
- PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN suspended goalkeeper Bernard Lama for one game after he returned late to France following the Christmas and New Year break. A similar fate met Franck Sauzee, who was suspended by Strasbourg for one match for allegedly throwing the ball at trainer Jeandupeaux during a 2-0 League Cup exit at Perpignan.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

AUXERRE 4 (Verlaat pen 32, Saib 38, Silvestre 67, Laslandes 69)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 8,000.

BASTIA 2 (Casanova 65, Rodriguez 70)
MONACO 2 (Thuram 2, Djorkaeff pen 13). **Att:** 8,000.

CAEN 0
LENS 0. **Att:** 16,645.

LILLE 1 (Dindeleux 71)
LE HAVRE 1 (Diawara 80). **Att:** 40,000.

LYON 3 (Gava 7, Maurice 45, Roche 60)
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 19,607.

METZ 3 (Pouget 37, Zitelli 69, Pires 88)
STRASBOURG 2 (Sauzee 23, 42). **Att:** 12,525.

NICE 3 (Sandjak 47, Moreau og 68, Chaouch 85)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 4,466.

PARIS SG 0
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 44,464.

RENNES 2 (Lambert 17, Alicarte 50)
MONTPELLIER 2 (Rizzetto 14, Grassi 65). **Att:** 8,510.

CANNES 0
NANTES 1 (Loko 58). **Att:** 11,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

WEEKEND

NANTES 0
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 30,000.

ST ETIENNE 3 (Camara 8, Moravcik 31, Potillon 72)
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 11,740.

CANNES 1 (Horlaville 22)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 3,500.

BORDEAUX 2 (Valdeir 19, Dutuel 89)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 13,000.

LE HAVRE 4 (Ba 16, Lagrange 56, 69, Chagnaud 85)
RENNES 0. **Att:** 7,456.

LENS 1 (Debeve pen 51)
PARIS SG 2 (Rai 12, Allou 79). **Att:** 30,217.

MONACO 1 (Ikpeba 27)
LYON 1 (Debbah 89). **Att:** 3,000.

SOCHAUX 0
NICE 1 (Chaouch 75). **Att:** 3,050.

STRASBOURG 1 (Mostovoi 22)
LILLE 1 (Assadourian 36). **Att:** 11,929.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WEEKEND

BASTIA 0
METZ 3 (Lang 39, Vercruysse 71, Pires 89). **Att:** 1,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

WEEKEND

AUXERRE 2 (Piveteau og, Vahirua 77)
MONACO 2 (Djorkaeff 7, 10). **Att:** 13,000.

CAEN 0
NANTES 2 (N'Doram 25, Rival og 65). **Att:** 19,180.

LILLE 1 (Sibierski 67)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 13,563.

LYON 0
BASTIA 0. **Att:** 17,554.

MARTIGUES 1 (Pounewatchy 81)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 4,000.

METZ 3 (Pouget 9, 72, Kastendeuch pen 68)
CANNES 2 (Horlaville 65, Koot 85). **Att:** 8,903.

MONTPELLIER 3 (Der Zakarian 9, Divert 32, Lefevre 75)
ST ETIENNE 2 (Blanc pen 52, Moravcik 74). **Att:** 9,836.

NICE 0
LE HAVRE 2 (Lagrange 57, 83). **Att:** 4,227.

PARIS SG 1 (Ginola pen 32)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 29,062.

RENNES 0
LENS 1 (Debeve 19). **Att:** 10,597.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... Patrice **LOKO** (Nantes) 12
2 ..... Nicolas **OUDEC** (Nantes) 11
Alain **CAVEGLIA** (Le Havre) 11
4 ..... Didier **THOLOT** (Martigues) 10
VALDEIR (Bordeaux) 10

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	21	12	9	0	38	16	45
Paris SG	21	12	5	4	32	17	41
Lyon	21	9	8	4	30	21	35
Cannes	21	10	4	7	30	20	34
Bordeaux	21	9	6	6	29	25	33
Auxerre	21	7	11	3	35	20	32
Lens	21	8	8	5	27	20	32
Strasbourg	21	9	4	8	27	23	31
Martigues	21	8	6	7	26	30	30
Metz	21	8	5	8	27	30	29
Monaco	21	6	9	6	20	17	27
St Etienne	21	7	5	9	28	25	26
Le Havre	21	5	11	5	25	23	26
Lille	21	6	6	9	15	24	24
Rennes	21	6	6	9	23	25	24
Nice	21	5	6	10	18	28	21
Bastia	21	5	6	10	19	31	21
Caen	21	5	3	13	19	30	18
Montpellier	21	3	9	9	19	33	18
Sochaux	21	5	3	13	21	40	18

Denmark

OB? Oh boy!

DANISH football received the perfect filip amid talk of scandal when OB Odense produced the shock of the season by knocking Real Madrid out of the UEFA Cup.

They had lost the home leg 3-2, and were given no chance for the return in the Bernabeu. But two goals in the last 20 minutes, the second in injury time, brought about a sensational result.

It broke, so all Danes hope, the Spanish jinx which has plagued Denmark over the years – and it brought OB a quarter-final clash against Italian side Parma.

The team came home as national heroes, just a few weeks after the international side had been slated for losing 3-0 to Spain in a European Championship qualifier.

But hopes of qualifying for Euro '96 were raised again when Spain demolished Belgium 4-1 in Brussels to leave Denmark favourites for second spot.

On the domestic scene, all the winter chatter was of scandal over the John Jensen transfer from Brondby to Arsenal. Allegations first made in a book by Danish TV journalist Henrik Madsen that a top official at Arsenal took a 'bung', exploded in England.

The transfer had already left a huge legacy in Denmark, because Brondby always claimed they only received £900,000 of the £1.57million paid by Arsenal.

But the club was forced to pay 25 per cent of the £1.6million fee to Jensen's former club SV Hamburg after the interventional of FIFA.

With new revelations in England, Brondby chief Per Bjerregaard demanded FIFA re-open the case to investigate whether Brondby should have money returned.

Other transfers of Danish players, like Torben Piechnik to Liverpool and Peter Schmeichel to Manchester United, also fell under the spotlight of an English Premier League inquiry because they were brokered by Norwegian agent Rune Hauge.

It all overshadowed a dramatic finish to the first half of the Superliga season, which saw Brondby win the final match 6-2 against top-of-the-table rivals Aab Aalborg to lead at the halfway stage.

Mark Strudal scored two goals in front of a 12,000 crowd, as Danish international defender Marc Rieper played his last game for the club before a move to West Ham.

Fremad Amager and Ikast were relegated to the qualifification liga, from which four teams will be promoted in the summer to expand the Superliga to 12 clubs.

They will play each other three times a season under the new format, with relegation then only made at the end of each season.

JIM HOLDEN

Finland

Jari's treble

JARI LITMANEN of Ajax Amsterdam is Finland's Player of the Year for the third year in a row.

Litmanen has been linked with a host of Italian clubs after scoring twice against Milan in the Champions League, but insists that he is perfectly happy at Ajax and wants to play out his contract, which lasts until 1997.

"I like to think that in football things don't work the same way as in the North American ice hockey league, where a player can be sold against his own wishes," says Litti. "At the moment, Ajax are the only club who matter to me."

Jaro's influential Russian midfielder, Aleksei Yeremenko, will spend the winter in Greece with Athinaikos and champions Tampere have sold international midfielder Kim Suominen to Austria's Admira-Wacker.

FinnPa have hired the League's all-time top scorer, Heikki Suhonen, as their new coach.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Finland's top man . . . Jari Litmanen.

Sweden

Agents of doom

IFK GOTHENBURG are growing impatient with agents swarming around their star performers.

"Some of these middle men are not doing serious business – they are simply out to try their luck and make money quickly," says club coach Roger Gustafsson.

The coveted IFK players include defenders Joachim Bjorklund and Pontus Kamark, young forward Jesper Blomqvist, and utility player Magnus Erlingmark, who scored four goals in the Champions League.

Midfielder Stefan Lindqvist, has also done well. He is 27, a former Halmstad striker, who flopped as a professional with Switzerland's Xamax and failed to make an immediate impact after his move to IFK. Now, however, Lindqvist has shone in a new role as a midfield ball-winner supporting Stefan Rehn.

Competition for midfield places at IFK will be hotter still with the transfer of international Stefan Landberg from Oster. The club are also said to be interested in bringing back Hakan Mild from troubled Swiss club Servette.

Malmo have sold forward Peter Hillgren to Helsingborg and nearly lost 19-year-old Jorgen Pettersson to Ajax Amsterdam. Malmo's coach, Rolf Zetterlund, has likened Pettersson to young Tomas Brolin.

Sweden's third place in the World Cup was rated as the Country's top sporting achievement in 1994, ahead of the Olympic gold-winning ice-hockey team and other winter sports, tennis and table-tennis stars.

"This is a milestone in the history of our national team and football in general," said coach Tommy Svensson, who was named as Sweden's sports leader of the year for a second year in a row.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Star in demand . . . Magnus Erlingmark

Latvia

CAPITAL FIRST, REST NOWHERE

SKONTA RIGA completed their triumphant procession through the League, with only two points dropped in 22 games, 76 goals scored and only nine conceded.

They finished nine points ahead of RAF Jelgava, with DAG Riga another four points further away.

Skonto's 20 victories included 10-0 against Khimikis, who finished bottom, 8-1 against Vidus and 8-0 against Gemma. The scoring was evenly distributed, with 14 from Vladimir Babichev, the highest individual total in the country.

Kvadrats Rega's promotion means that next season the top division's 12 clubs will include nine from Riga, the capital.

Latvia took their first European Championship points by beating Liechtenstein 1-0 in their third game, with a goal by Babichev.

VALERY KARPOUSHKIN

Luxembourg

BEST VICTORY, BEST DEFEAT

POOR Koeppchen Wormeldange suffered their worst-ever defeat when thrashed 11-0 by Jeunesse Esch, who secured a record win.

Immediately after the game Koeppchen sacked their manager, Gilbert Dresch.

Paulo Amodio and Patrick Morrocutti both scored hat-tricks.

A week later Jeunesse beat champions Avenir Beggen 3-1 in front of their biggest crowd of the season, 3,000.

Grevenmacher remained top of the National Division with only a week remaining before the winter break. A 1-0 victory over lowly Spora left them a point clear of Jeunesse.

TIM BRICE

Liechtenstein

ONE TOO MANY

THE LIECHTENSTEIN national side almost achieved their first European Championship point when losing 1-0 at home to Latvia.

The goal came after 14 minutes, through Baichev's penalty. Liechtenstein had chances, but poor finishing ruined their efforts.

The game was again played at the Sportrack in provincial Mauren in front of only 1,300 supporters.

On the domestic scene, Vaduz are still looking good for promotion to the National Division, with Schaan and Balzers still both struggling in mid-table.

TIM BRICE

Belgium

Crisis for Van Himst

WHOEVER would have thought watching Belgium defeat their fiercest rivals Holland in Orlando's Citrus Bowl late last June that within a few months Belgian football would be experiencing its most severe crisis.

But a crisis it is that has to be confronted by the Belgian football Federation. "The time has come to turn the page," Michel D'Hooghe, the president said after seeing the so-called 'Red Devils' humiliated 4-1 by Spain in the Parc Astrid.

Losing at home to a resurgent Spain need not be a disgrace. But for Belgium it was, coming so soon after the lamentable 1-1 home draw with Macedonia, whose subsequent 3-0 victory over Cyprus put them in second place in Group Two.

"We still have a mathematical chance of qualifying but it is very slim," said coach Paul Van Himst, clutching at straws blown by Spanish windmills. "We seem to lack the speed and power of the better European countries like Spain, Italy and Germany."

Van Himst, it is true, was deprived of the services of George Grun and Enzo Scifo but he seemed to know not how to change things once they started going wrong after Marc Degryse had shot Belgium into an early lead.

At times, tactically, Van Himst seems so blissfully unaware that comparisons with Graham Taylor's worst days in charge of England spring inevitably to mind. Long before the end Belgium had been reduced to a rabble. Fernando Hierro's equaliser for Spain was followed by Donato's penalty and further goals from Julio Salinas and Luis Enrique.

At a time when they could have done with a more comfortable fixture, the next game is the return with Spain on March 29, accompanied, no doubt, by all the attendant perils that come with a visit to Seville. With victories in all four games so far, the Spaniards already have one foot in the finals.

Van Himst must also find a new captain for the game in Seville. At 33, Franky Van der Elst no longer needs the constant barracking that greeted his every touch.

"It's now virtually impossible for us to qualify so I think it's time to give other players a chance," Van der Elst said on announcing his retirement from international soccer. He added: "One lousy game will not overshadow my career." It was sad, nevertheless, that the Bruges midfielder should have to make such an undignified exit after 60 appearances for his country.

The visit of Lierse (fourth from top) to Cercle Bruges, who were fourth from bottom, seemed an intriguing enough prospect and and an opportiunity for those of us wishing to seek out for ourselves the cause of Belgium's alarming demise. But all that game did was confirm what we already suspected, the superiority of the foreigners on the domestic field.

If that game was typical, the vibrance of Belgian club football has been eroded by a decline in technique and vision, which consequently reduces the appeal. Watched by a meagre crowd of 2,600, Cercle won 5-0 helped by four goals from their imports. Twice, substitute Torma, the Hungarian Under-21 forward, danced round the opposing goalkeeper to score.

But Torma's goals were nothing compared with the brace from Dorinel Munteau. The Romanian rounded off his exceptional night's work by chipping poor Mampaey from 40 yards with the last kick of the game. He earned the expressed admiration of the hardened Eric Gerets, the Lierse trainer. Now, there was a tough player. How Belgium could do with the likes of him right now.

NICHOLAS HARLING

Forced into retirement . . . Van der Elst

Holland

Pettersson snubs Ajax

JORGEN PETTERSSON, a youth team player with Malmo FF in Sweden, spurned Ajax's offer of a contract after spending a week and a half on trial in Amsterdam.

According to Pettersson: "Ajax is a very fine club, but there are too many players of my age group already here and I don't think I'm quite ready for Ajax. Maybe I will be next year."

Pettersson's short time in Holland was just before the winter break and was part of the club's plan to ensure everything goes well in the second half of the season. Pettersson is a striker and plays the same way as Patrick Kluivert, who is expected to join team-mate Clarence Seedorf, in the Dutch squad for the World Under-19 championship in Nigeria in March.

And Ajax manager Louis van Gaal knows he is short of orthodox central strikers – the Amsterdam club have also had to release Finidi George and Nwankwo Kanu to play for Nigeria in the Inter-Continental Cup in Saudi Arabia.

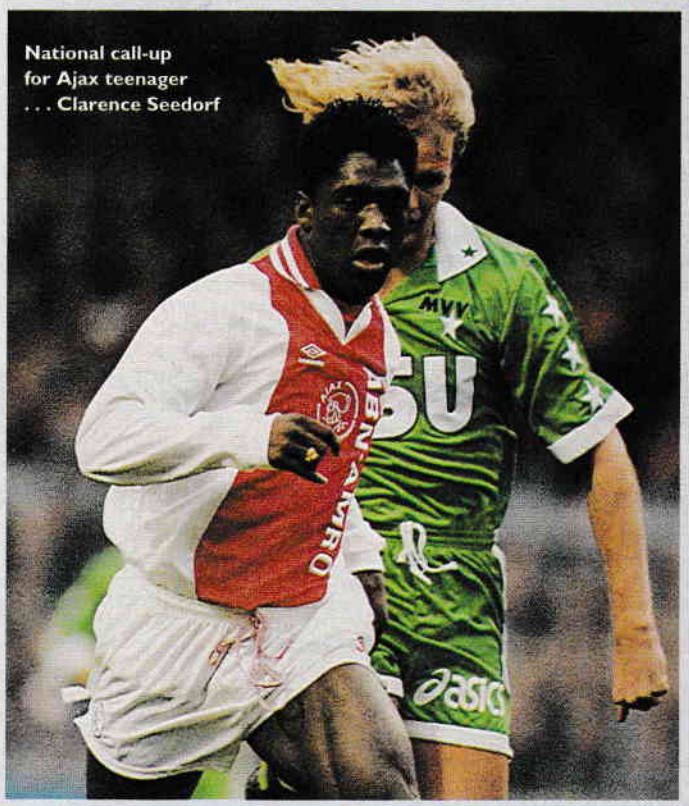
The national call-ups are part of the price for Ajax's success this season. Apart from reaching the quarter-finals of the European Cup, they are in *two* Dutch FA Cup quarter-finals! Under Dutch FA regulations there is nothing to stop one club entering two teams. Ajax did just that, so the first team face arch rivals Feyenoord and Ajax 'reserves' play against FC Utrecht.

FC Twente are hardly likely to enter two teams in the Cup, but they are determined to become a top club. Two of their forwards – Arnold Bruggink and Rik Platvoet – are expected to join the Ajax pair in the Dutch squad for the World Under-19 championship.

Twente have surprised the rest of Holland by staying so close to the top all through the first half of the season. They have also played some good football, to say nothing of results such as the 5-1 thrashing of Feyenoord and a 2-2 draw with PSV, who only saved a point with a last-minute equaliser.

Twente are based in a part of Holland that is called 'Tukkerland' a farming region where people are jokingly described as having grass in their hair, clogs on their feet and nothing in their head.

That would not be a fair description of chief coach Issy ten Donkelaar. As a player he had spells with Twente and Second Division SC Heracles. As a coach he was with amateur clubs until the Dutch FA appointed him coach for the football province of Twente.



National call-up for Ajax teenager . . . Clarence Seedorf

He joined FC Twente in 1991 in charge of building up the club's young talent. Over the years Twente have won the Dutch FA Cup once, were twice losing finalists and were even league champions in 1926! That may not come anywhere near the long list of Ajax successes, but as Issy ten Donkelaar proudly says: "If our youngsters continue to develop as they are now, in a couple of years FC Twente will have gold in their hands."

ERIC NICHOLLS

Portugal

Sporting humble Benfica

BENFICA went across Lisbon to Sporting's Alvalade Stadium, and lost. Nothing to be surprised about. Sporting are the leaders, together with Bobby Robson's Porto, and they have been playing great football.

The manager, Carlos Queiroz, needs no recommendations, thank you. He can show others a brilliant portfolio of achievements. So, why were people surprised about Benfica's defeat?

The over-confident Lisbon Eagles went there as if they, not Sporting, were the leaders; as if they, not the Queiroz team, were playing the best football in the Portuguese League. And all that crowd, all those newspapers, radio, TV, were there as if Benfica, not Sporting, were five points ahead.

Then a strange situation developed. When confronted with reality the players simply lost their heads and rain ensued – a rain of 10 yellow cards and two red. People did not like that.

A week later, the two leaders had their brief encounter at Antas. Queiroz had to deal with an old fox called Robson; Robson in turn had to face a man full of ideas, some of them new ideas.

In the end, the supreme match of the league as it stands now was drawn, and both teams were reasonably happy. But Benfica, having beaten Boavista 4-1, recovered one point from each of the main rivals.

If they win the match they still have in hand, Benfica will be only four points behind and that can mean a lot to a team where Joao Pinto and Argentinian Claudio Caniggia are still to play their best.

Gone are the days when a difference of only one point could give you substantial hopes of the title.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

● Belgian goalkeeper Guy Hubart earned Estrela de Amadora a 1-1 draw against visitors Chaves – by scoring a late equaliser from a corner.

Not at his best . . . Claudio Caniggia

Republic of Ireland

Murphy takes over

SHELBOURNE, who celebrate their centenary this year, have followed the FAI by going for an English manager.

Shels have plenty of talent, but no trophies of late. So enter Colin Murphy, one-time manager of Derby, late of Southend. He takes over the hot seat at Tolka Park from Eamonn Gregg, who had spent heavily during the close season.

Derry City also changed managers, with former player Felix Healey replacing Tony O'Doherty, who quit for business reasons.

The FAI would like to experiment with summer soccer, having a season from March to October. President Michael Hyland feels that the League should go for a five-year trial period.

There are lots of counter-attractions during the Summer, and another problem could be an outflow of players to the Irish League in Northern Ireland. Already a large group of players travel North every Saturday.

Cork City and Dundalk have qualified for the final of the League Cup, with the first leg at Bishopstown on January 15 and the second at Oriel Park a week later.

Italian club Sampdoria are now partly owned by an Irish-registered company, Southdale Sports and Marketing Promotions, owned by Swiss-based Heinz Barandun. He recently bought half of the Mantovani family's 78 per cent stake in the Genoa club for an estimated £16million.

The FAI has reduced ticket prices for the friendly against England at Lansdowne Road on February 1. "It's our way of thanking the public for their support over the years, and our only regret is that we will not be able to cater for everybody," said chief executive Sean Connolly.

SEAN CREEDON

Turkey

Osieck ousted

FENERBAHCE coach Holger Osieck was sacked as the first half of the season ended – but the man who got rid of him has in turn been supplanted.

President Hasan Ozaydin failed to gain re-election, being overwhelmingly defeated by Ali Sen, who held the position 1981-83.

Sen, a prominent industrialist, claims that he has the backing of many wealthy enthusiasts, intent on "creating a great Fenerbahce with the best players and the best manager."

The 61-year-old Croatian Tomislav Ivic is Sen's choice for the latter role, on an 18-month contract said to be worth $850,000.

Osieck had been widely criticised, although Fenerbahce's record is by no means bad. They lost only four of their 17 League games in the first part of the season, and three weeks before the axe fell they beat Kayseri 8-1.

"I did what I thought was right, but some people hindered my work," said Osieck. "My players were under pressure, like me. But the fans were tremendous."

Defending champions Galatasaray top the table on 39 points, with Besiktas just behind on goal difference. Trabzonspor were third, three points behind, Fenerbahce fourth and Bursaspor fifth.

Turkey lost 2-1 at home to Switzerland in a Euro Championship qualifier, after a series of goalkeeping problems. First-choice Hayrettin was left out after a row with manager Terim, deputy Engin was kept out by injury, and replacement Rustu, not fully fit, conceded two silly goals.

● Konyaspor chairman Hamdi Ucarok will take the squad to Mecca if they win promotion. "The chance of a trip to Islam's most holy site should buck them up a bit," he said . . . but Konya remain seventh.

HASAN CEMALI

Israel

GINSBURG IN DOPE SCARE

NATIONAL team goalkeeper Bonnie Ginsburg has survived unscathed after a dope test.

Ginsburg had been given medication for a cold by team doctor Mark Rosnovsky when Israel were preparing to play Azerbaijan in November but Rosnovsky apparently forgot to note down that he had given the drug, although he had assured everybody that it did not contain banned substances.

Officials had feared that Israel could be penalised if the test turned out to be positive. Now the results have been found negative, so Israel could get back to the major task – the European Championship. In the latest home clash Israel drew 1-1 against Romania and now have every chance of qualifying for the 1996 finals.

Coach Shlomo Scharf made very few changes, although the suspension of midfielder Tal Banin prompted him to recall Antwerp-based Itzik Zohar.

The tightest league race in many years has increased interest in the championship. Seven out of the 16 clubs are within two points of each other, and the leadership has changed in each of the past four rounds. Current leaders, Hapoel Beersheba are ahead of the pack by one point, and hope to gain their first title since 1975-76.

ORI LEWIS

Malta

BIRKIRKARA IN BUYING MOOD

THE PREMIER League started again after the three-week break with Sliema Wanderers dropping a point in a 0-0 draw with Birkirkara Luxol, who fielded debutant Nebjosa Jankovic, signed from OFK Belgrade.

Birkirkara also announced the signing of former Colchester and Arsenal player Perry Groves, who watched his new team-mates in action against Sliema from the terraces. Groves is hoping to be fit enough to play regularly, having had to pack up the game in England because of injuries.

Floriana got back in contention with a 1-0 win over Zurrieq. New Serbian signing Nenad Vaseli has joined Igor Stefanovic up front, and Floriana seem set for a comeback.

DOMENICO AQUILANA

Greece

WARZYCHA ON THE WARPATH

THERE'S no stopping Panathinaikos Athens and star striker Krysztof Warzycha.

The club are still unbeaten in the Greek First Division, winning 11 and drawing with Iraklis away. They have 34 points, eight more than OFI Crete.

Polish international Warzycha has claimed 15 goals out of 35, and Panathinaikos have scored most and conceded the fewest – just seven goals. He has become the most prolific foreign player ever in Greece with 115 goals in 150 matches.

Argentinian midfielder Juan Jose Borelli has been cited as one of the main reasons Panathinaikos are going well this season, with a dozen assists to his credit besides the five goals he has scored.

OFI, led by young top scorers Nikos Malas with seven goals and Costas Frantzeskos with five, continue to surprise many people. Dutch coach Egen Gehardt, at the helm for the last 10 years, has just completed 300 matches with OFI, with 140 wins, 68 draws and 92 losses. Paok and Iraklis share third place with 23 points.

They are still celebrating at Aghios Nikolaos on the island of Crete, where the Third Division local squad beat Paok in the second round of the Greek Cup.

● The Greek Soccer Federation have banned referee Pantelis Vassiliadis for three games – because he wore his hair in a ponytail.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Poland

Kosecki tops poll of Poles

ROMAN KOSECKI, who plays in Spain, has been named as Poland's Footballer of the Year.

The organisers announced that Atletico Madrid forward Kosecki is "every inch a professional" and "showed enormous ambition in every match he played".

Kosecki has won more than 60 caps and at just turned 29 he seems set for many more.

A midfielder five years younger than Kosecki was named Discovery of the Year. Sylwester Czereszewski of Stomil Olsztyn is a newcomer to the international scene but already a vital part of coach Apostel's plans.

Two men tied for the Manager of the Year title – Pawel Janas and Piotr Piekarczyk.

Janas, capped 51 times, has just completed a year as coach of Legia Warsaw and has taken them to the Cup-League double and to the Polish Supercup. Pekarczyk led GKS Katowice to second place last season and to the third round of the UEFA Cup – the best place of any Polish entrant.

The national team enlivened the winter break by playing two games against Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. Apostel's men won 2-0 in a friendly and 2-1 in an official international.

Several newcomers were given a chance, with one of them, Tomasz Rzasa, scoring the decider in the second match. Rzasa, 21, is a striker with Sokol Pniewy who has attracted interest from clubs in France and Switzerland.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

Toping the Pole . . . Roman Kosecki

Slovakia

Jo so short of back-up

THREE of Slovakia's Euro '96 opponents did themselves some good while Jo Venglos and his team had a blank December date.

Their next outing, four months after their last, is at home to Azerbaijan in March, and a convincing victory is a must after the French win on the Black Sea coast and the draw between the Israelis and Romanians.

The major problem for Venglos remains the weakness of domestic football and the difficulty of running a side in a major inter-national competition without any depth of squad.

His first 15 are all sound, provided Dubovsky and Moravcik are available, as the second-half display in Bucharest showed, but if they are not . . .

In the league, Slovan finished the half-season 11 points ahead of FC Kosice and 14 to the good of much-improved Spartak Trnava, who recovered from a bad start.

Two campaigners in Europe, Tatran Presov and Inter Bratislava, have slumped since their dismissals and are now in the relegation zone.

Tatran's form since putting Dundee United out of the Cup-winners Cup is such that they could slip beneath Humenne and Zilina.

Goal difference may be needed once again.

BOB VAUGHAN

Albania

KOLA BEARS FRUIT FOR TIRANA

INDRID FORTUZI'S 10th-minute goal against Partizani decided the derby match in favour of FK Tirana.

A cross from 36-year-old international Agustin Kola the best player of the match, created Fortuzi's ninth goal of the championship, in which he is top scorer.

Partizani's coach, Hasan Lika, said: "I am absolutely delighted with the way my youngsters played. But Tirana are the best team right now."

Tirana lead with 23 points and are unbeaten in 13 games Partizani are second with 19 points, followed by Apolonia with 15 and Beselidhja and Albpetrol on 14.

Champions Teuta have only 12 points and are in eighth position.

GEZIM NUSHI

Russia

Still no room for Salenko

RUSSIAN national boss Oleg Romantsev will not be calling on World Cup record-breaking marksman Oleg Salenko in their European Championship bid.

The Valencia striker set a record by scoring five times in a single game against Cameroon at USA '94. But that cuts no ice with Romantsev who said: "Every coach has his own concept and right now my assistants and I are selecting those players who we think can help us the most. It's time we stopped bringing up this topic so often because it's starting to bore me."

Romantsev dropped Salenko for the European championship qualifier against San Marino in October, saying he had not earned the right to automatic selection.

Champions Moscow Spartak have been busy in the close-season transfer market, filling the gaps left by sales abroad last summer.

Spartak bought Russia defender Omari Tetradze from neighbours Dynamo Moscow, striker Valery Velichko from Belarus side Dynamo Minsk and Torpedo Moscow defender Andrei Afanasyev. Sparta, who secured a third consecutive national championship in November, are also poised to land goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatulin from KamAZ Naberezhnye Chelny.

Last year Spartak sold striker Vladimir Beschastnikh to Germany's Werder Bremen and midfielders Igor Lediakhov to Sporting Gijon and Valeri Karpin to Real Sociedad.

The most recent Russian star to join the exodus was Moscow Dynamo forward Igor Simutenkov, signed by Italian strugglers Reggiana.

JONATHAN SHALLARD

Ukraine

Double quits for Szabo

FORMER Kiev Dynamo player Anatoly Konkov has been named as Ukraine's national coach in succession to Joseh Szabo.

The national federation named Konkov as the successor to Szabo, who resigned at the end of last year after just three months in the job.

Szabo also resigned as coach of Kiev Dynamo after his side failed to meet his expectations.

Ukraine have four points from three European Championship qualifying games and currently lie in fourth place in Group Four.

Szabo had agreed to act as national coach temporarily after the Ukraine Football Federation had failed to find anyone who was prepared to take on the job on a full-time basis.

Kiev Dynamo had finished bottom of Group B of the Champions League. However, on the domestic front, thing look better for the Champions. The first half of the Ukraine season ended with Kiev Dynamo confirming their position as leaders, five points ahead of Shakhtyor.

Dynamo have taken 43 points from their 17 matches and overhauled Shakhytyor, who led early on but were defeated in their last three games.

Shakhtyor have suffered more than most from bad refereeing, and have asked the national federation to establish an independent referees association to improve the situation. They threatened to stop their participation in the championship if this is not done.

Nine of the 18 clubs in the Premier League have changed managers so far. The result: further deterioration of skill and flair.

On the positive side Ukraine have some talented players who may go on to make a name for themselves.

Shevchenko from Kiev Dynamo is the most promising, at 17. He has been scoring regularly, including one goal in the 4-1 defeat in the Champions Cup against Bayern Munich.

The decision to introduce three points for a win helped to bring 405 goals in the 153 games this season, an average of 2.65 per game. At the same stage last season the figure was 2.17.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

Czech Republic

Tough task for Uhrin

WITH a December 'bye' national coach Dusan Uhrin had a chance to take a look at forthcoming European Group 5 opposition and mull over plans for the Spring ties, both home games, with Belarus and Holland.

Neither Luxembourg nor Norway could do the Czechs a favour – Luxembourg went down 5-0 to Holland, while Norway won in Malta 1-0 and now that Uhrin's task to qualify will be even tougher it is essential that he does something for morale and solves any problems with squad members abroad, who make up a majority of the squad.

The Czechs, in theory, should be able to take maximum points from the four games, home and away, with Belarus and Luxembourg, but maintaining a chance to qualify for the finals will now depend on there being 'no more Valettas'.

If Uhrin can pull it off the national team coach's job will be his for at least the competition in England and the World Cup campaign to follow.

Things, however, need to go well in 1995 and an improvement in domestic football would be a help. Sparta, in particular, need to buck up if they are to have any chance of qualifying for Europe in 1995-96.

Expectation is always high, and directors and fans will be looking for a return from the investment in a renovated stadium and in the Sundermann-Chovanec management duo.

A UEFA place may be the optimum given late autumn form and the seven-point lead which arch rivals Slavia have opened up.

Four defeats in the first half-season were the cause of Sparta's poor placing come December, and the champions may have to rely on the back door, via the Intertoto Summer Competition, for an opening in Europe.

BOB VAUGHAN

Romania

Steaua back in charge

THE CHAMPIONSHIP race broke up for the winter break with fireworks from the 'Stars'.

FC National, leaders for much of the autumn, were comprehensively seen off 6-0 by Steaua, with goals from Lacatus, Galca, Rosu and Parvu and a couple in the second half from Ilie.

The explosion continued with Steaua's unexpected win in Split at the end of an otherwise disappointing Champions League series.

Now they have to concentrate on qualifying again in a hope to revive the Cup glory their victory in Seville in 1986. National trail only by a point, 'U' Craiova and Ceahlaul by five.

Soccer closed down with the match in Israel, which brought a point and should have meant three, Rosenthal equalising four minutes from the end.

'General' Iordanescu's failure to bag full points means that the Israelis remain in contention, while the French revival also does not help.

Poland at home in late March is the next hurdle, and it is not comforting that the group's last three rounds in the autumn are tricky away games with Poland and Slovakia and a penultimate tie with France in Bucharest.

Only the Azerbaijanis are out of contention. The other five countries still have all to play for.

BOB VAUGHAN

Hungary

Ujpest cling to the top

UJPEST, suffering from the loss of injured goal-scorer Laszlo Wukovics for six matches, slipped after a brilliant start to hold only a one-point lead over Ferencvaros as the Hungarian championship stoppped for the Autumn break.

They reached 33 points from 15 matches, having attained 24 after eight, before defeats to ETO in Gyor and 2-1 to defending champions Vac FC-Samsung at Megyeri ut. Vac's determined defenders held out to give Jozsef Garami and his players a reminder that nothing comes easily.

Garami,said: "The team started the season absolutely marvellously. We didn't expect such a high performance, but we could keep the ball a lot and thus had to get it back less.

"We had three players in the Olympic squad, five in the national squad, and nearly everyone else played equally well. I am very satisfied with what the team achieved."

Vac's Antal Fule finished as equal leading scorer, with 12, the same as little Gyorgy Bognar of BVSC-Dreher. They performed better than at any time in their history to take fourth spot, with 28 points, are behind Kispest-Honved.

The 15th and final round had a few surprises, UTE managing only a 1-1 draw at Csepel, Debrecen losing at home to lowly Parmalat. Kispest scoring three in the last half-hour against ten-man Nagykanisza as they said farewell to popular Istvan Pisont (who will spend the rest of the season at Charleroi in Belgium) and Pecs managing a 2-1 home win over Bekescsaba.

In the Cup, Ferencvaros had Peter Lipcsei to thank with a 61st-minute goal, in a 1-0 first-leg, win over Zalaegerszeg, who conceded 15 corners and won one. In the return, the country team won 2-1, only to be eliminated on away goals.

Kispest put out Csepel, Pecs did for small-time Hajdunanas, and Bekescsaba, BVSC, Vac, Stadler and UTE make up the last eight.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

Bound for Belgium . . . Istvan Pisont

Bulgaria

A passage to England

THE EURO '96 tie with Wales provoked a lot of talk. The national team went to Cardiff with a dismal record on British soil but with cautious optimism which proved totally justified.

Stoichkov and his cohorts were well prepared and the opportunism.of libero Ivanov and Kostadinov all but put the tie beyond doubt well before half-time.

Bulgaria's class told, and while Wales coach Mike Smith claimed that his team had chances, so did the Bulgars – though only one other was taken, by Stoichkov, four minutes into the second half.

The next episode is the return with Wales in Sofia in March, for which UEFA need to select a less lenient referee. Similar problems were encountered in the Under-21 match in Swansea, which at one time was threatened by a pitch invasion despite a ridiculously low gate.

Whether the Bulgarian FA or the large press corps will protest at the lack of the very minimum of hospitality and facilities at the Vetch Field and at the Arms Park remains to be seen.

What looks certain is that Bulgaria will be joining Germany from Group 7 in England in 1996.

Levski led the League table going in to the break, but it was CSKA who made the news by thumping relegation threatened Lok Go 5-1 to finish in sixth place.

BOB VAUGHAN

Misery for Wales . . . Stoichkov strikes in Cardiff

No more heroes

Goal-grabber . . . Blackburn's Sutton celebrates his FA Cup strike at Newcastle

The third round of the FA Cup proved too much for the small clubs, with only one Premiership side missing from the fourth-round draw

Face of the future . . . Liverpool's Robbie Fowler

THE third round of the FA Cup – traditionally an anxious time for managers facing lower-league opposition – failed to live up to its billing, with only one FA Premiership side missing from the hat for the fourth-round draw.

This year, the Goliaths had the better of the Davids, with Second Division Wrexham providing the only major upset.

They knocked out Premiership strugglers Ipswich, now managed by George Burley, who played 500 games for the Suffolk club and was in their 1978 FA Cup-winning side. Also in that side was Northern Ireland international Allan Hunter, and his nephew Barry Hunter was in the Wrexham team which deservedly won 2-1 at the Racecourse.

There were only four non-league sides in the third round – Aylesbury, Enfield, Marlow and Altrincham – and all were well beaten by QPR, Leicester, Swindon and Tottenham respectively.

Tottenham's 3-0 victory, coupled with the fact that they were originally banned from the competition, has made them the 'people's favourites' to lift the cup. Gerry Francis and his rejuvenated side, unbeaten in their last nine League games, may yet have a big say in the destination of the old pot.

The other third-round ties went largely with form, although Leeds United needed an equaliser three minutes from time to salvage a 1-1 draw at Third Division Walsall. Leeds had ample chances to win the match, but were denied by the brilliance of Walsall keeper Trevor Wood, and some very wayward finishing.

Second Division-leaders Birmingham City and Liverpool played out one of the best games of the round at St Andrews, the only disappointing factor being the 0-0 scoreline. Liverpool are favourites to win the replay, but must be wary of another "Attack of the Killer B's" – having lost at home in third-round Cup replays to Bristol City and Bolton in the last two seasons.

The tie of the round produced a 1-1 draw between Newcastle and Blackburn at St James' Park, and Kenny Dalglish's League-leaders must now be favourites to complete the job at Ewood Park.

Rovers saw in the New Year six points clear of Manchester United, and must now, finally, be considered serious candidates for the championship. Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton – who got the goal against Newcastle – are in irresistable form, with 30 League goals between them already this season.

Manchester United cannot be ruled out of the title race yet, but Newcastle's chance may have gone. Injuries to key players such as Scott Sellars, Robert Lee and Peter Beardsley – coupled with Andy Cole's recent loss of form – leaves them 12 points off the pace after a disastrous run in which they won only two out of 13 games.

No such worries for Liverpool, who won all four of their holiday fixtures, to take them into third place. And, with Blackburn, Man United and Newcastle all still to visit Anfield, Liverpool are being taken as serious title-challengers.

Roy Evans has restored confidence at Anfield, and he is now reaping the benefits. The three-man defence of John Scales, Neil Ruddock and Phil Babb is now working efficiently and young midfielders Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp are superbly guided by old hand John Barnes, and Ian Rush performs a similar role with Robbie Fowler, joint top scorer in the Premiership with 17 goals.

Fowler, still only 19, is being hailed as the new Rushie, and seems certain to move up to the full England squad in the near future. If he turns out to be only half as good as his mentor, he should still have a long, successful career.

At the bottom, Ipswich's 4-1 hammering of Leicester meant they swapped places at the foot of the table, but both clubs look doommed to relegation. Everton have improved since Joe Royle took over as coach, but they are still in great danger. So too are Aston Villa, despite the arrival of Brian Little as manager and the £2.9million outlay on Derby County's Gary Charles and Tommy Johnson.

Crystal Palace have slithered into trouble too, on the back of a depressing 633-minute goal drought which prompted one South London newspaper to run a competition in which readers were asked to guess who would be the lucky Palace player to break the duck!

● SLEAZE, the political buzz-word of 1994, has now infected football too, though we may never know the full extent of the problem.

Following the Bruce Grobbelaar match-fixing allegations and Paul Merson's cocaine and gambling admissions, the main point of interest now is the ongoing controversy about international transfers and 'bungs' in particular.

As reported last month, Arsenal manager George Graham is alleged to have received an illegal payment – a bung – of £280,000 from John Jensen's transfer. Graham denies profiting from the deal, put together by controversial Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, but has since faced severe pressure to resign.

Since then, the Premier League have launched a three-man inquiry, and several more Hauge-inspired deals between English and Scandinavian clubs have come under suspicion.

No end is in sight yet in the Grobbelaar affair, and the Hampshire police say they will not be rushed in their investigation. And, with chief witness Chris Vincent – Grobbelaar's former business partner – out of the country for the next six months, there may be no case to present in the foreseeable future.

● THE FA have announced details of England's fixtures for 1995. With no European Championship qualifiers to contest, England have only friendly fixtures to occupy them.

ENGLAND'S 1995 FIXTURES

Feb 15: v Republic of Ireland (Dublin)
Mar 29: v Uruguay (Wembley)
June 3: v Japan (Wembley)
June 6: v Brazil (Wembley)
June 8: v Sweden (Elland Rd, Leeds)
June 11: Four-team tournament, 3rd-place play-off & final (Wembley)
Sep 6: To be arranged
Oct 11: v Norway (Oslo)
Nov 15: v Switzerland (Wembley)

JOHN KELLY

Northern Ireland

Glenavon go for Best

MANAGERIAL manoeuvres continue to dominate the Ulster soccer scene.

After sacking Alan Fraser, ambitious Glenavon head-hunted Bangor's Nigel Best *(right)*, regarded as the most astute tactician in the Irish League.

There was a week of unseemly wrangling, mostly carried out in the sports pages, before Best, who had 18 months of his contract at Bangor still to run, signed a 30-month deal with Glenavon.

Coleraine were dealt a body blow when manager Felix Healey decided to move to Derry City in the League of Ireland. In 13 months in charge, Healey had gone a long way towards restoring the fortunes of a club who only a few years ago were the main rivals to Linfield and Glentoran.

The Budweiser Cup Final, played at Windsor Park in the most atrocious conditions of driving wind and rain, made up in excitement for what it lacked in style.

Portadown, two down to Distillery after 75 minutes, hammed in four goals in eight minutes to lift the trophy, earning manager Ronnie McFall a five-year extension to his contract.

ROY KITSON

Wales

Bulgaria ring the changes

THE 3-0 HOME defeat by Bulgaria, in which Wales were predictably outclassed by a far better side, will undoubtedly herald changes.

National team boss Mike Smith will be considering his position and the media will resume the call for mass executions, but the unavoidable truth is that a period of rebuilding is urgently needed.

Euro '96 is now a distant dream, and whoever is the manager will need to rethink both team selection and tactics. A number of excellent youngsters are coming through the Under-21 side, but it will take time to blood them alongside the experienced players in the current squad.

Whatever happens, it will be a long hard climb to qualify for France in 1998.

Reigning champions Bangor City, eight points ahead at the top of the table, seem well in control of their own destiny.

Despite going down to only their second defeat of the season, to a single goal by Barry Town's Paul Giles, City continue to impress. Five matches brought 20 goals, including a 7-0 hammering of bottom club Maesteg Park.

Newtown went two better against Maesteg with an overwhelming 9-0 win at Latham Park, scoring four in the last 10 minutes.

Brian Flynn, the Wrexham manager, tipped Newtown for the title following his club's Welsh Cup win at the second attempt against the young mid-Wales side.

Third place, and out of form, Inter-Cardiff will be hoping for a return to form of twin strikers Dave Taylor and Paul Hunter, currently leading this season's scoring charts.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

Scotland

Battered Burns battles on

THE BARREN years continue at Celtic Park, with still no sign of the once-great Glasgow club ending their prolonged trophy famine – which has now raged for almost six years.

After Celtic failed to dispose of First Division side Raith Rovers in the Coca-Cola Cup final at Ibrox in November, the inquests were vast and largely inconclusive.

On paper, Celtic appear to have done everything the right way.

A wealthy chairman has been brought in and board of directors, so often held responsible for the club's troubles in the past, moved out.

A new, vibrant young manager, with the club close to his heart, replaced a man who was accused of spending more of his working week in England than in Scotland, and new players, committed to the Celtic cause, came in at the expense of individuals who had been regarded as latter-day footballing mercenaries.

The ingredients were all there for a revival but the recipe was clearly incorrect and the resultant 'cake' turned out to be no more than a piece of crumbling pastry as the club continued on the depressing downward spiral.

Manager Tommy Burns, who never could be accused of failing to hold the club's interests in absolute priority, has been progressively more scathing about those who presently wear the green and white.

Earlier in the season he said "Sometimes you learn more about players in times of adversity than when things are going well," and graduated to a razor-shape swipe at his men when, after being asked about the possibility of bringing a big-name star into the team, he replied "What's the point? The other ten would only drag him down to their level."

These forthright comments merely mirror the acute sense of hurt which Burns is feeling just now as he presides over a team who appear further away than ever from ending what is widely regarded as the most depressing period in Celtic's history.

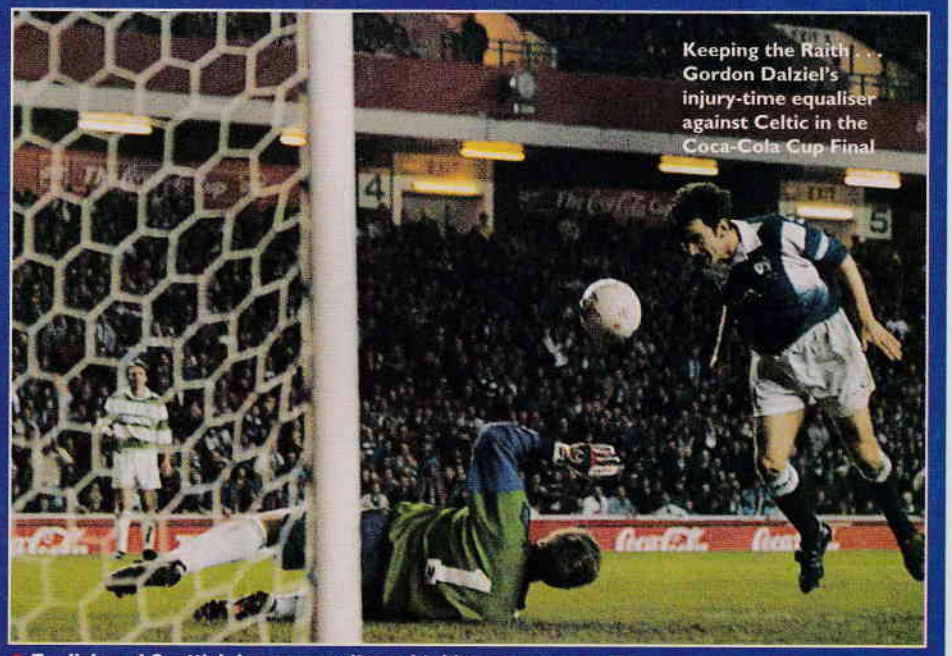
No such problems, of course, across the city at Ibrox, as Rangers lurch merrily towards their seventh successive League title. The superb Danish winger, Brian Laudrup, continues to slip through defences, and the strikers wait eagerly in front of goal, ready to capitalise on the chances which he creates. Rangers are not yet a force in European football, but in terms of the domestic game, their superiority remains unquestioned.

Aberdeen, on the other hand, are in severe crisis. Once one of the most respected club sides in Europe, they have slipped to bottom of the Premier Division, placing manager Willie Miller under the kind of pressure he never knew during his years in the heart of the team's defence.

Like Celtic, the ingredients are all there for Aberdeen – forward thinking board, vibrant young manager and no shortage of international talent on the playing staff.

But in an intriguing parallel, the Pittodrie recipe seems as seriously flawed as Celtic's.

ALAN FAIRLEY



Keeping the Raith ... Gordon Dalziel's injury-time equaliser against Celtic in the Coca-Cola Cup Final

English and Scottish league results and tables are on page 56.

Serie A squa

BARI

COACH Giuseppe MATERAZZI
STADIUM San Nicola

GOALKEEPERS
Giuseppe ALBERGA 26.09.66
Alberta FONTANA 23.01.67
DEFENDERS
Lorenzo AMORUSO 28.06.71
Paolo ANNONI 21.01.70
Emanuele BRIOSCHI 23.06.75
Luciano CIVERO 01.12.71
Amedeo MANGONE 12.07.68
Marcello MONTANARI 25.09.65
Gianluca RICCI 02.03.68
Carlo SASSARINI 14.01.71
Massimiliano TANGORRA 06.06.70
MIDFIELDERS
Angelo ALESSIO 29.04.65
Michele ANDRISANI 06.08.73
Onofrio BARONE 04.07.64
Emiliano BIGICA 04.09.73
Roberto CAU 19.03.76
Carmine GAUTIERI 20.07.70
Candido GERSON (Bra) 01.06.67
Gian Paolo MANIGHETTI 24.01.69
Francesco PEDONE 06.06.68
Carmelo PUGLISI 03.02.72
FORWARDS
Miguel GUERRERO (Col) 07.09.67
Igor PROTTI 24.09.67
Sandro TOVALIERI 25.02.65

BRESCIA

COACH Mircea LUCESCU (Rom)
STADIUM Mario Rigamonti

GOALKEEPERS
Marco BALLOTTA 03.04.64
Ivan GAMBERINI 20.08.67
DEFENDERS
Giuseppe BARONCHELLI 09.03.71
Sergio BATTISTINI 07.05.63
Stefano BONOMETTI 30.12.61
Luca BRUNETTI 10.11.64
Luigi CORINO 26.04.66
Salvatore GIUNTA 13.04.67
Nicola MARANGON 14.04.71
Davide MEZZANOTTI 28.02.71
Paolo ZILIANI 10.06.71
MIDFIELDERS
Augusto DI MURI 29.03.73
Sergio DOMINI 11.03.61
Fabio GALLO 11.09.70
Danut LUPU (Rom) 27.02.67
Maurizio NERI 21.03.65
Marco PIOVANELLI 07.04.74
Ioan SABAU (Rom) 12.02.68
Marco SCHENARDI 03.03.68
FORWARDS
Gabriele AMBROSETTI 07.08.73
Stefano BORGONOVO 17.03.64
Jorge CADETE (Por) 27.08.68
(on loan from Sporting Lisbon)
Franco LERDA 19.08.67
Davide RATTI 02.02.76

CAGLIARI

COACH Oscar TABAREZ (Uru)
STADIUM Sant' Elia

GOALKEEPERS
Nicola DI BITONTO 01.05.66
Valerio FIORI 27.04.69
Alessio SCARPI 19.04.73
DEFENDERS
Francesco BELLUCCI 23.01.73
Andrea BENASSI 27.07.75
Antonio BITETTI 17.09.74
Aldo FIRICANO 12.03.67
Nicolo NAPOLI 07.02.62
Giuseppe PANCARO 26.08.71
Vittorio PUSCEDDU 12.02.64
Simone VERONESE 08.07.74
Mateo VILLA 23.01.70
MIDFIELDERS
Massimiliano ALLEGRI 11.08.67
DanieleBERRETTA 08.03.72
Pierpaolo BISOLI 20.11.66
Jose HERRERA (Uru) 17.06.65
Christian LANTIGNOTTI 18.03.70
Alessandro MANCA 02.06.75
Marco SANNA 27.12.69
Steven TORBIDONI 26.05.75
FORWARDS
Julio C. DELY VALDES (Pan) 12.03.67
Luigi MOLINO 23.03.72
Luis OLIVEIRA (Bel) 24.03.69
Francesco P. TRIBUNA 11.03.77

CREMONESE

COACH Luigi SIMONI
STADIUM Giovanni Zini

GOALKEEPERS
Stefano RAZZETTI 13.09.71
Luigi TURCI 27.01.70
DEFENDERS
Alfredo BASSANI 03.07.70
Giovanni DALL'IGNA 16.08.72
Luigi GARZYA 07.07.69
Luigi GUALCO 04.03.65
Davide LUCARELLI 14.03.63
Mauro MILANESE 17.09.71
Mario MONTORFANO 07.05.61
Alessandro PEDRONI 30.01.71
Corrado VERDELLI 30.09.63
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Gianni CRISTIANI 09.02.63
Stefano DE AGOSTINI 25.10.64
Ettore FERRARONI 17.01.68
Marco GIANDEBIAGGI 01.02.69
Eligio NICOLINI 19.01.61
Vanni PESSOTTO 04.06.74
Alessio PIRRI 27.01.76
Claudio SCLOSA 28.02.61
Luigi TURCI 27.01.70
FORWARDS
Enrico CHIESA 29.12.70
Matjaz FLORIJANCIC (Sloven) 18.10.67
Andrea TENTONI 18.05.69

FIORENTINA

COACH Claudio RANIERI
STADIUM Artemio Franchi

GOALKEEPERS
Emiliano BETTI 15.02.72
Cristiano SCALABRELLI 28.11.70
Francesco TOLDO 02.12.71
DEFENDERS
Pasquale BRUNO 19.06.62
Daniele CARNASCIALI 06.09.66
Fabio DI SOLE 10.05.74
Enzo GAMBARO 23.02.66
Gianluca LUPPI 23.08.66
Alberto MALUSCI 23.06.72
MARCIO dos SANTOS (Bra) 15.09.69
Stefano PIOLI 19.10.65
Andrea SOTTIL 04.01.74
MIDFIELDERS
Daniele AMERINI 03.08.74
Angelo CARBONE 23.03.68
Sandro COIS 09.06.72
Fabrizio DI MAURO 18.06.65
Anselmo ROBBIATI 01.01.70
RUI Manuel COSTA (Por) 29.03.72
Giovanni TEDESCO 13.05.72
FORWARDS
Francesco BAIANO 24.02.68
Gabriel BATISTUTA (Arg) 01.02.69
Sergio CAMPOLO 04.03.72
Francesco FLACHI 08.04.75

Marco Simone

Roberto Baggio

Pietro Vierchowod

FOGGIA

COACH Enrico CATUZZI
STADIUM Pino Zaccheria

GOALKEEPERS
Domenico BOTTICELLA 02.03.76
Alex BRUNNER 08.12.73
Franco MANCINI 10.10.68
DEFENDERS
David BIANCHINI 23.07.71
Giovanni BUCARO 20.11.70
Giordano CAINI 28.03.69
Giuseppe DI BARI 17.11.69
Pierluigi NICOLI 06.04.66
Pasquale PADALINO 26.07.72
Aniello PARISI 01.09.73
MIDFIELDERS
Oberdan BIAGIONI 17.10.69
Mauro BRESSAN 05.01.71
Massimiliano CAPPELLINI 02.01.71
Davide CENICOLA 22.10.75
Pasquale DE VINCENZO 12.02.68
Luigi DI BIAGIO 03.06.71
Massimiliano GIACOBBO 15.07.74
Nicolo SCIACCA 24.11.68
FORWARDS
LUCA AMORUSO 15.11.75
Pierpaolo BRESCIANI 21.07.70
Massimiliano CAPPELLINI 02.01.71
Davide CENICOLA 22.10.75
Igor KOLYVANOV (Rus) 06.03.68
Paolo MANDELLI 04.12.67
Massimo MARAZZINA 16.07.74

GENOA

COACH Giuseppe MARCHIORO
(replaced Francesco Scoglio)
STADIUM Luigi Ferraris

GOALKEEPERS
Gianluca BERTI 20.05.67
Gabriele SPINETTA 27.01.75
Stefano TACCONI 13.05.57
(no longer with the club)
DEFENDERS
Davide CREMONESI 17.08.75
Daniele DELLI CARRI 18.09.71
Giovanni FRANCINI 03.08.63
Fabio GALANTE 20.11.73
Gianluca SIGNORINI 17.03.60
Vincenzo TORRENTE 12.02.66
MIDFIELDERS
Andrea BIANCHI 04.02.69
Mario BORTOLAZZI 10.01.65
Luca CAOCCI 09.02.75
Gaetano DE ROSA 10.05.73
Dario MARCOLIN 28.10.71
Roberto ONORATI 05.02.66
Gennaro RUOTOLO 20.03.67
Alessandro TURRONE 04.08.74
John VAN'T SCHIP (Hol) 30.12.63
FORWARDS
Kazuyoshi MIURA (Jap) 26.02.67
Marco NAPPI 13.05.66
Michele PADOVANO 28.08.66
Tomas SKUHRAVY (Cze) 07.09.65

INTER

COACH Ottavio BIANCHI
STADIUM Giuseppe Meazza

GOALKEEPERS
Luca MONDINI 25.02.70
Gianluca PAGLIUCA 18.12.66
DEFENDERS
Giuseppe BERGOMI 22.12.63
Giovanni BIA 24.10.68
Mirko CONTE 12.08.74
Gianluca FESTA 12.03.69
Antonio PAGANIN 18.06.66
Massimo PAGANIN 19.07.70
Paolo TRAMEZZANI 20.07.70
MIDFIELDERS
Nicola BERTI 14.04.67
Alessandro BIANCHI 07.04.66
Francesco DELL'ANNO 04.06.67
Davide FONTOLAN 24.02.66
Wim JONK (Hol) 12.10.66
Antonio MANICONE 27.10.66
Pierluigi ORLANDINI 09.10.72
Angelo ORLANDO 11.08.65
Andrea SENO 01.02.66
Igor SHALIMOV (Rus) 02.02.69
FORWARDS
Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol) 10.05.69
Marco DELVECCHIO 07.04.73
Darko PANCEV (Mac) 17.09.65
Ruben SOSA (Uru) 25.04.66
Marco VERONESE 22.05.76

JUVENTUS

COACH Marcello LIPPI
STADIUM Delle Alpi

GOALKEEPERS
Davide MICILLO 17.04.71
Angelo PERUZZI 16.02.70
DEFENDERS
Massimo CARRERA 22.04.64
Ciro FERRERA 11.02.67
Gianluca FRANCESCONI 10.09.71
Luca FUSI 07.06.63
Robert JARNI (Cro) 26.10.68
Jurgen KOHLER (Ger) 06.10.65
Alessio MORELLI 21.08.76
Sergio PORRINI 08.11.68
Luigi SARTOR 30.01.75
Moreno TORRICELLI 23.01.70
MIDFIELDERS
Antonio CONTE 31.07.69
Didier DESCHAMPS (Fra) 15.10.68
Angelo DI LIVIO 26.07.66
Giancarlo MAROCCHI 04.07.65
PAULO Manuel SOUSA (Por) 30.08.70
Michelangelo RAMPULLA 10.08.62
Alessio TACCHINARDI 23.07.75
Simone TOGNON 25.06.75
FORWARDS
Roberto BAGGIO 18.02.67
Alessandro DEL PIERO 09.11.74
Corrado GRABBI 29.07.75
Fabrizio RAVANELLI 11.12.68
Gianluca VIALLI 09.07.64

ds 1994-95

LAZIO

COACH Zdenek ZEMAN (Yug)
STADIUM Olimpico

GOALKEEPERS
Luca MARCHEGIANI 22.02.66
Flavia ROMA 21.06.74
DEFENDERS
Cristiano BERGODI 04.10.64
Mauro BONOMI 23.08.72
Jose Antonio CHAMOT (Arg) 17.05.69
Roberto CRAVERO 03.01.64
Giuseppe FAVALLI 08.01.72
Paolo NEGRO 16.04.72
MIDFIELDERS
Roberto BACCI 15.06.67
Domenico CRISTIANO 29.03.76
Ivano DELLA MORTE 13.10.74
Vincenzo DE SIO 10.07.72
Roberto DI MATTEO 29.05.70
Thomas DOLL (Ger) 09.04.66
(now with Eintracht Frankfurt)
Diego FUSER 11.11.68
Paul GASCOIGNE (Eng) 27.05.67
Fernando ORSI 12.09.59
Giorgio VENTURIN 09.07.68
Aron WINTER (Hol) 01.03.67
FORWARDS
Alen BOKSIC (Cro) 21.01.70
Pierluigi CASIRAGHI 04.03.69
Marco DI VAIO 15.07.76
Roberto RAMBAUDI 12.01.66
Giuseppe SIGNORI 17.02.68

MILAN

COACH Fabio CAPELLO
STADIUM Giuseppe Meazza

GOALKEEPERS
Mario IELPO 08.06.63
Sebastiano ROSSI 20.07.64
DEFENDERS
Franco BARESI 08.05.60
Alessandro COSTACURTA 24.04.66
Filippo GALLI 19.05.63
Roberto LORENZINI 09.07.66
Paolo MALDINI 26.06.68
Stefano NAVA 19.02.69
Alessandro ORLANDO 01.06.70
(on loan to Juventus)
Mauro TASSOTTI 19.01.60
MIDFIELDERS
Demetrio ALBERTINI 23.08.71
Zvonimir BOBAN (Cro) 08.10.68
Marcel DESAILLY (Fra) 07.09.68
Roberto DONADONI 09.09.63
Stefano ERANIO 29.12.66
Gianluigi LENTINI 27.03.69
Massimo ORLANDO 26.05.71
Christian PANUCCI 12.04.73
Dejan SAVICEVIC (Yug) 15.09.66
Gianluca SORDO 02.12.69
Giovanni STROPPA 24.01.68
FORWARDS
Daniele MASSARO 23.05.61
Alessandro MELLI 11.12.69
Marco SIMONE 07.01.69
Marco VAN BASTEN (Hol) 31.10.64

NAPOLI

COACH Vujadin BOSKOV (Yug)
(replaced Vincenzo Guerini)
STADIUM San Paolo

GOALKEEPERS
Raffaele DI FUSCO 06.10.61
Giuseppe TAGLIALATELA 02.01.69
DEFENDERS
Fabio CANNAVARO 13.09.73
Ciro CARUSO 14.08.73
Andre CRUZ (Bra) 20.09.68
Luca LUZARDI 18.02.70
Salvatore MATRECANO 05.10.70
Massimo TARANTINO 20.05.71
Roberto VEZZOSI 08.07.73
MIDFIELDERS
Luca ALTOMARE 14.01.72
Alain BOGHOSSIAN (Fra) 27.10.70
Roberto BORDIN 10.01.65
Eugenio CORINI 30.07.70
Gabriele GROSSI 11.02.72
Fausto PARI 15.09.62
Fabio PECCHIA 24.08.73
Roberto POLICANO 19.02.64
FORWARDS
Massimo AGOSTINI 20.01.64
Renato BUSO 19.12.69
Benito CARBONE 14.08.71
Massimo CIOCCI 25.02.68
Carmelo IMBRIANI 10.02.76
Fredy RINCON (Col) 14.08.66

PADOVA

COACH Mauro SANDREANI
STADIUM Euganeo

GOALKEEPERS
Adriano BONAIUTI 07.05.67
Ennio DAL BIANCO 03.11.62
Paulo DE ANGEL 02.05.76
DEFENDERS
David BALLERI 28.03.69
Marco FRANCESCHETTI 19.01.67
Franco GABRIELE 21.09.62
Alexi LALAS (US) 01.06.70
Claudio OTTONI 28.05.60
Massimiliano ROSA 12.10.70
Agostino SIVIERO 12.02.72
Davide TENTONI 25.10.70
Gianluca ZATTARIN 01.05.74
MIDFIELDERS
Gianni CAVEZZI 07.08.69
Maurizio COPPOLA 24.05.65
Gaetano FONTANA 21.02.70
Michel KREEK (Hol) 16.01.71
Damiano LONGHI 27.09.66
Carmine NUNZIATA 22.07.67
Emanuele PELLIZZARO 27.07.70
Carlo PERRONE 08.07.60
Daniele ZORATTO 15.11.61
FORWARDS
Giuseppe GALDERISI 22.03.63
Filippo MANIERO 11.09.72
Roberto PUTELLI 03.08.69
Goran VLAOVIC (Cro) 07.08.72

PARMA

COACH Nevio SCALA
STADIUM Ennio Tardini

GOALKEEPERS
Luca BUCCI 13.03.69
Giovanni GALLI 29.04.58
DEFENDERS
Luigi APOLLONI 02.05.67
Antonio BENARRIVO 21.08.68
Marcello CASTELLINI 02.01.73
Alberto DI CHIARA 29.03.64
Gianluca FALSINI 02.10.75
FERNANDO COUTO (Por) 02.08.69
Gianluca FRANCHINI 11.09.72
Lorenzo MINOTTI 08.02.67
Roberto MUSSI 25.08.63
Diego PELLEGRINI 21.11.70
Massimo SUSIC 11.03.67
MIDFIELDERS
Dino BAGGIO 24.07.71
Raffaele CAMERA 11.03.75
Mario Masimo CARUSO 30.07.69
Massimo CRIPPA 17.05.65
Gianluca HERVATIN 01.01.74
Gabriele PIN 21.11.62
Nestor SENSINI (Arg) 12.10.66
FORWARDS
Faustino ASPRILLA (Col) 10.11.69
Marco BRANCA 06.01.65
Tomas BROLIN (Swe) 29.11.69
Mario LEMME 21.03.73
Gianfranco ZOLA 05.07.66

REGGIANA

COACH Enzo FERRARI
(replaced Giuseppe Marchioro)
STADIUM Mirabello

GOALKEEPERS
Francesco ANTONIOLI 14.09.69
Andrea SARDINI 04.11.67
DEFENDERS
Giuseppe ACCARDI 07.03.64
Gianluca CHERUBINI 28.02.74
Luigi DE AGOSTINI 07.04.61
Angelo GREGUCCI 10.06.64
Luca LAGHI 14.02.76
Gianfranco PARLATO 14.03.70
Michele ZANUTTA 20.10.67
MIDFIELDERS
Francesco COZZA 19.01.74
Fernando DE NAPOLI 15.03.64
Massimiliano ESPOSITO 27.05.72
Dorin MATEUT (Rom) 05.08.65
(on loan to Dinamo Bucharest)
Sunday OLISEH (Nig) 14.09.74
Igor SIMUNTENKOV 04.03.73
Eugenio SGARBOSSA 17.03.64
Max TONETTO 18.11.74
Manuel VIVANI 08.04.73
FORWARDS
Giorgio BRESCIANI 23.04.69
Nunzio FALCO 06.11.73
Paulo FUTRE (Por) 18.02.66
Adriano TARIBELLO 19.08.76

ROMA

COACH Carlo MAZZONE
STADIUM Olimpico

GOALKEEPERS
Giovanni CERVONE 16.11.62
Fabrizio LORIERI 11.02.64
DEFENDERS
ALDAIR Dos Santos (Bra) 30.11.65
Enrico ANNONI 01.07.66
Silvano BENEDETTI 05.10.65
Andrea BORSA 21.01.72
Amedeo CARBONI 06.04.65
Francesco COLONNESE 10.08.71
Marco LANNA 13.07.68
Fabio PETRUZZI 24.10.70
Dario ROSSI 14.11.72
MIDFIELDERS
Massimiliano CAPPIOLI 17.01.68
Giuseppe GIANNINI 20.08.64
Giampiero MAINI 29.09.71
Francesco MORIERO 31.03.69
Giovanni PIACENTINI 09.04.68
Francesco STATUTO 13.07.71
Jonas THERN (Swe) 20.03.67
FORWARDS
Abel BALBO (Arg) 01.06.66
Daniel FONSECA (Uru) 13.09.69
Roberto MUZZI 21.09.71
Francesco TOTTI 27.09.76

SAMPDORIA

COACH Sven Goran ERIKSSON (Swe)
STADIUM Luigi Ferraris

GOALKEEPERS
Matteo GIANELLO 07.05.76
Giulio NUCIARI 26.04.60
Walter ZENGA 28.04.60
DEFENDERS
Riccardo FERRI 20.08.63
Moreno MANNINI 15.08.62
Marco ROSSI 09.09.64
Stefano SACCHETTI 10.08.72
Michele SERENA 10.03.70
Pietro VIERCHOWOD 06.04.59
MIDFIELDERS
Alberico EVANI 01.01.63
Fabio GIANNASI 07.02.75
Giovanni INVERNIZZI 22.08.63
Vladimir JUGOVIC (Yug) 30.08.69
Attilio LOMBARDO 06.01.66
Riccardo MASPERO 19.02.70
Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC (Yug) 20.02.69
David PLATT (Eng) 10.06.66
Fausto SALSANO 18.12.62
FORWARDS
Mauro BERTARELLI 15.09.70
Ruud GULLIT (Hol) 01.09.62
Roberto MANCINI 27.11.64
Maurizio SALA 20.02.75

TORINO

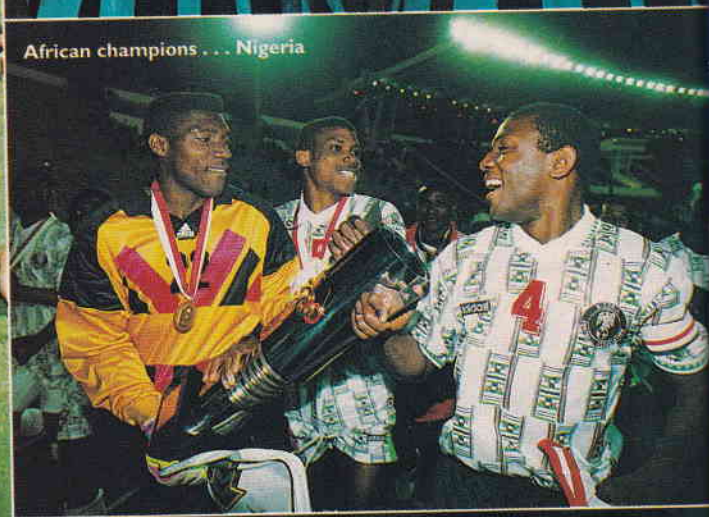
COACH Nedo SONETTI
(replaced Rosario Rampanti)
STADIUM Delle Alpi

GOALKEEPERS
Luca PASTINE 01.02.71
Luigi SIMONI 15.02.65
DEFENDERS
Jocelyne ANGLOMA (Fra) 07.08.65
Nicola CARICOLA 13.02.63
Jean-Pierre CYPRIEN (Fra) 12.02.69
Giulio FALCONE 31.05.74
Roberto MALTAGLIATI 07.04.69
Sean Luca SOGLIANO 28.02.71
Stefano TORRISI 07.05.71
Vittorio TOSTO 14.06.74
MIDFIELDERS
Antonino BERNARDINI 21.06.74
Ivano BONETTI 01.08.64
Mauro BRIANO 08.03.75
Paolo CRISTALLINI 20.09.71
Marco OSIO 13.01.66
Abedi PELE (Gha) 05.11.62
Gianluca PESSOTTO 11.08.70
Gianluca PETRACHI 14.01.69
Giuseppe SCIENZA 14.10.66
Marco SINIGAGLIA 29.02.68
Alvise ZAGO 20.08.69
FORWARDS
Pasquale LUISO 30.10.69
Ruggiero RIZZITELLI 02.09.67
Andrea SILENZI 10.02.66

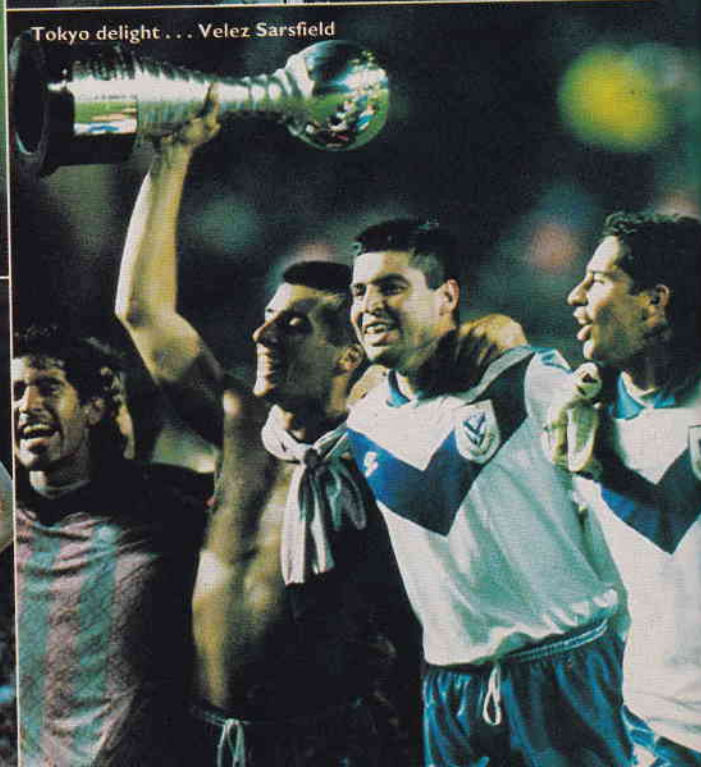
The Winners

World Champions . . . Brazil

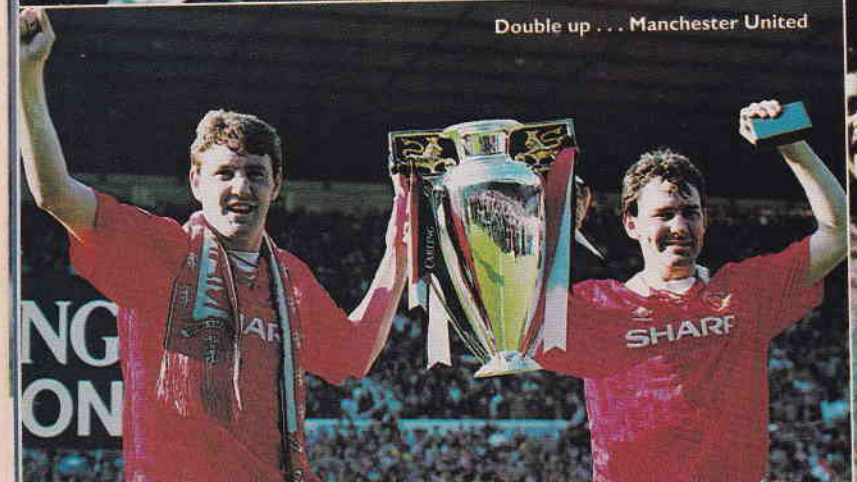
UEFA Cup triumph . . . Inter



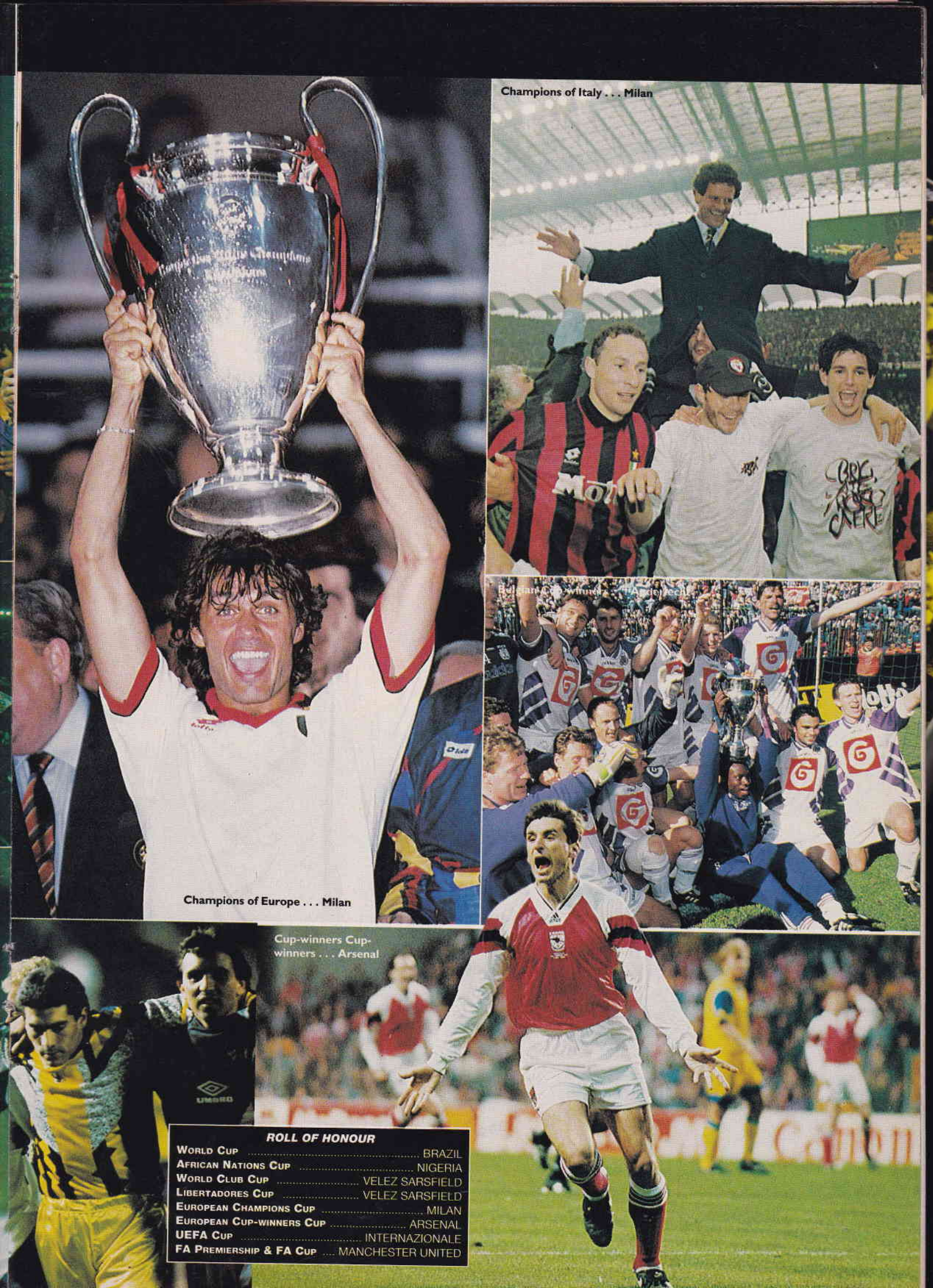
African champions . . . Nigeria



Tokyo delight . . . Velez Sarsfield



Double up . . . Manchester United



Champions of Europe . . . Milan

Champions of Italy . . . Milan

Cup-winners Cup-winners . . . Arsenal

ROLL OF HONOUR

World Cup	BRAZIL
African Nations Cup	NIGERIA
World Club Cup	VELEZ SARSFIELD
Libertadores Cup	VELEZ SARSFIELD
European Champions Cup	MILAN
European Cup-winners Cup	ARSENAL
UEFA Cup	INTERNAZIONALE
FA Premiership & FA Cup	MANCHESTER UNITED

World Cup USA '94

Felled . . . Romania's Dumitrescu

Clashing . . . Maldini and Babb

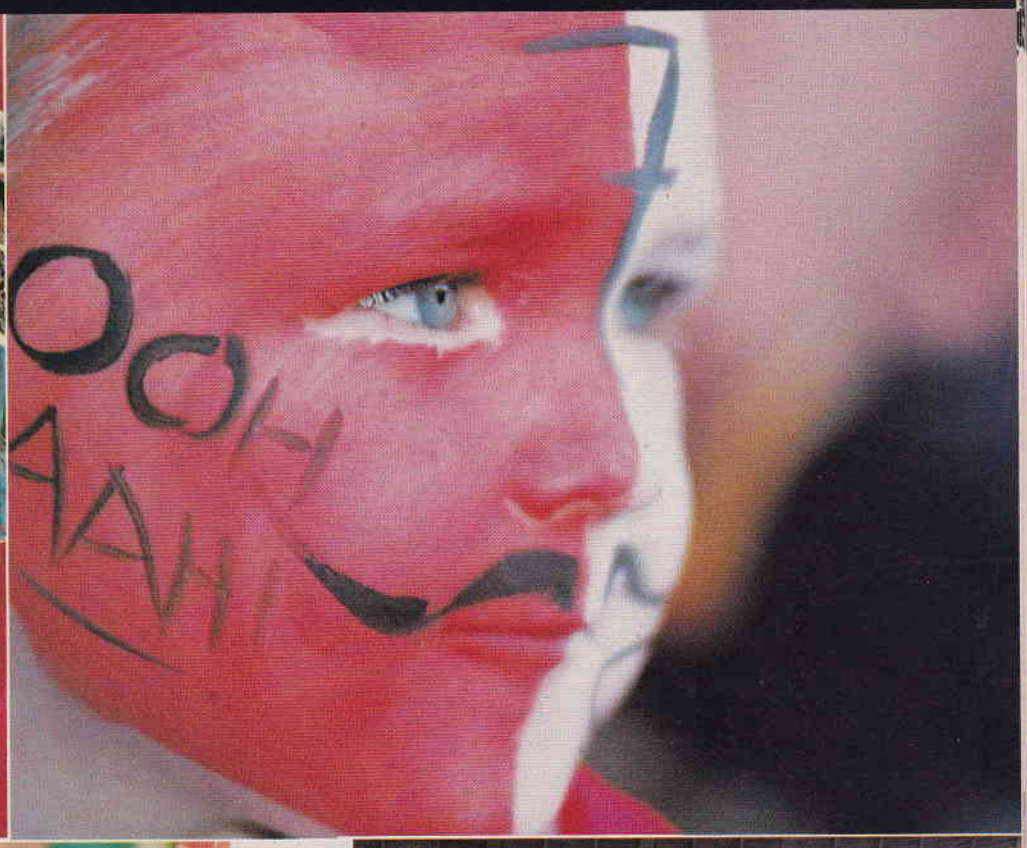
Stars and strips . . . the USA celebrate

Losing his head . . . Spain's Luis Enrique

Bulgarian blinder . . . Stoichkov

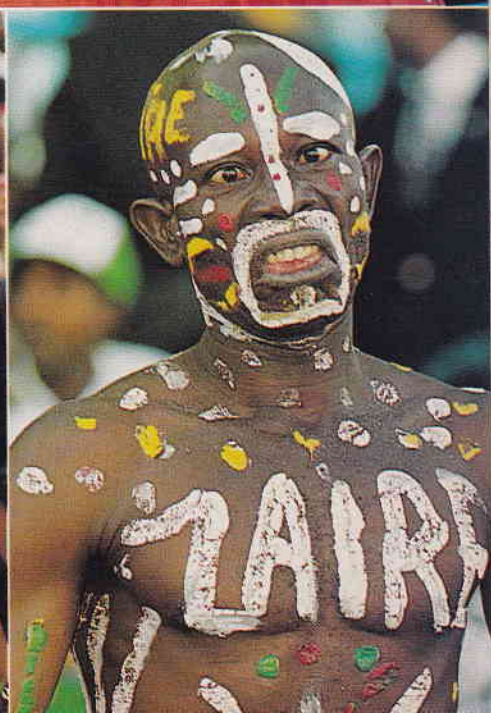
Fan-tastic!!!

MEXICO



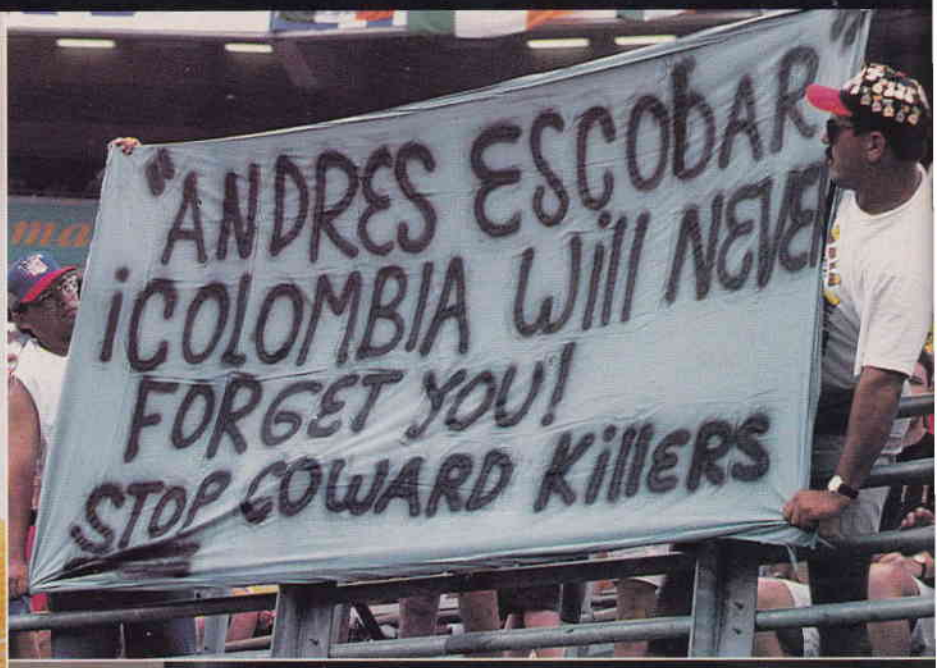
PIER-
GR
Matt

LIVERPOOL


LAIRE

R.I.P.

Andres Escobar (1967-1994)

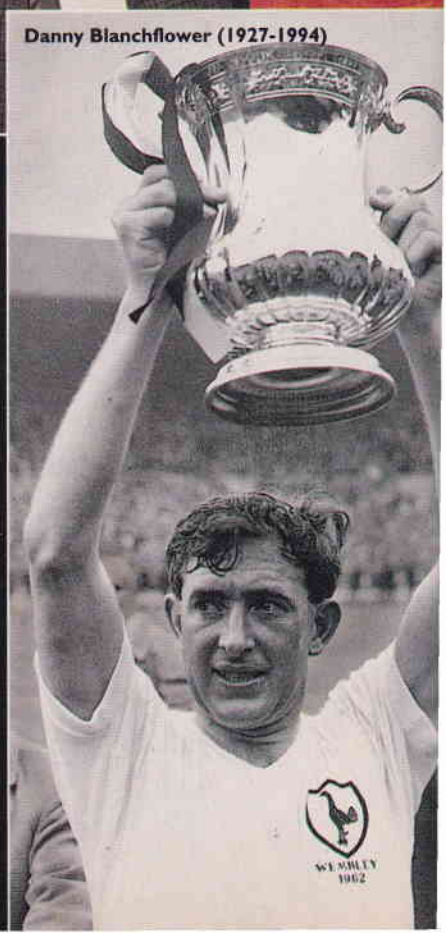


Sir Matt Busby (1910-1994)

Billy Wright (1924-1994)

OTHERS WE LOST IN 1994

Rafael ALSUA	(1923-1994)
James BROWN	(1909-1994)
Raich CARTER	(1914-1994)
Mario CECCHI GORI	(1922-1994)
DENER	(1971-1994)
Dick DONALD	(1912-1994)
Noel DWYER	(1935-1994)
Mario GANTA	(1914-1994)
Ricardo GONZALES	(1969-1994)
Johnny HANCOCKS	(1911-1994)
Bosco JANKOVIC	(1952-1994)
Helmut KAISER	(1912-1994)
Nikolai KODRITSKY	(1963-1994)
Carlos MUNOZ	(1965-1994)
Joaquin OLIVA	(1921-1994)
Arnie OLIVER	(1908-1994)
Hughes ROGOMBE	(1912-1994)
Luigi ROSSELLINI	(1919-1994)
Arthur ROWE	(1909-1994)
RUI FILIPE	(1968-1994)
Juan SCURSONI	(1900-1994)
Roy VERNON	(1938-1994)
Tony WADDINGTON	(1925-1994)
Gerald WARD	(1937-1994)
Francisco ZULUAGA	(1929-1994)



Danny Blanchflower (1927-1994)

Brazil

Yes, Minister . . . Pele is Brazil's new Sports Minister

Pele's political gamble

PELE has taken perhaps the greatest gamble of his public life – accepting the post of Sports Minister in the new Brazilian government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

His accession to the corridors of political power could prove a double-edged sword for the most famous footballer of all time.

Clearly, Pele is taking a major risk with his reputation and popularity by taking political 'sides'; on the other hand he has seized a potentially enormous advantage in the lately-dormant feud with FIFA president Joao Havelange and his son-in-law Ricardo Teixeira, the president of the Brazilian football confederation.

Trouble began with a dispute over domestic football TV rights and blew up into an international diplomatic bust-up in Las Vegas in December 1993 at the draw for the 1994 World Cup finals

Pele had claimed that his own television company had been unfairly rejected in a contest for domestic soccer rights. He had threatened court action against Teixeira but then fell foul of Havelange in Las Vegas. Havelange – to the bemused fury of the international media in general and the US media in particular – barred Pele from participation in the draw on the flimsiest of pretexts. This was the flashpoint which aroused debate, for the first time in public, about Havelange's continuing grip on the world game.

Now Pele has, 'at a stroke,' risen above Teixeira at least and found a potentially powerful new platform. 'Potential' is a key word. Zico, another famous Brazilian footballer, found out when he held the job for 15 months in 1989 and 1990 that being Sports Minister can be a thankless task. The Minister may find all his best intentions frustrated by an ever-changing mixture of unholy alliances between political, business and media interests.

Brazilian politicians have traditionally worked hard to bask in the reflected glory of the nation's World Cup-winning footballers. Similarly, a number of international footballers have been elected to membership of the Brazilian parliament at one time or another.

Hardly surprisingly, President Cardoso was ecstatic to confirm Pele's arrival on board. Cardoso said: "Pele has never accepted a public position before. His interest in sport at grass-roots level and his capacity to draw attention to problems will be immensely valuable. He is a symbol of the Brazil which has come up from the roots and a symbol of a Brazil which has triumphed."

It is uncertain how much time Pele will be able to spare from his business interests to devote to the Ministry. Also, it remains to be clarified how he may square his neutral Ministerial status with his high-profile promotional and advisory contracts with the likes of Mastercard and Japan's World Cup 2002 Bid Committee.

Pele was out of sight on the day of the announcement, back home in the port of Santos, the city and club where he rose to fame and where he is an executive vice-president. He is expected to concentrate on developing sport at grass roots level, working with private companies to build facilities which are desperately lacking. The vast majority of sports facilities in Brazilian cities are within private or military clubs and are inaccessible to the poor.

Football pitches, once abundant, have been swallowed up by building and in cities such as Rio de Janeiro are almost impossible to find. Flamengo, for example, are reported on the verge of selling their own club stadium for development to resolve financial difficulties.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD and KEIR RADNEDGE

What a farce!

Banned Edmundo stars in title deciders

BRAZIL'S World Cup victory left everyone hoping and expecting that this year's Brazilian championship would be a roaring success. The CBF had other ideas.

By concocting one of the strangest formats ever seen, and then following with an awesome display of mismanagement, the 'cartoles', as football directors are known, turned the tournament – deservedly won by Palmeiras – into one of the most ridiculous farces yet.

As regular followers of the Brazilian game will know, this was quite an achievement. Year in, year out, the Brazilian championship has been chaotic and badly-run: this one was beyond belief.

The Edmundo affair, in which he was suspended, reprieved, given a longer suspension and then reprieved again in time to play in the final, was typical of the way the tournament was run.

Edmundo benefitted from a rule known as the 'efeito suspensivo' – literally translated, the suspensive effect. This little gem of Brazilian footballing legislation allows any player who is suspended for two games or more to appeal against his punishment and, as an added bonus, to carry on playing until the hearing takes place.

So when Edmundo was banned for four games plus 30 days for his part in the Sao Paulo-Palmeiras brawl – six players sent off and a free-for-all that needed riot police intervention – Palmeiras simply appealed, and he kept on playing as if nothing had happened.

The tribunal upped the punishment to five games and 40 days, only for Palmeiras to immediately bring in the second appeal and the second efeito suspensivo.

More than three months after the incident took place, the second appeal hearing is still awaited, because six of the seven members of the tribunal have been 'travelling'.

As a result, Edmundo not only took part in the final of the championship, in which Palmeiras beat Corinthians 4-2, but played a decisive role, scoring in the first match, which Palmeiras won 3-1, and setting up his side's only goal in the second game, which ended 1-1.

Both matches were littered with ugly fouls, many of which went unpunished. In the second leg, three players were sent off – Branco and Luisinho of Corinthians and Zinho of Palmeiras.

Two days later Vanderley Luxemburgo announced that he was resigning as Palmeiras manager after 20 months, during which he won two Brazilian and two Sao Paulo championships.

Later in the week he joined Flamengo, who quickly embarked on a flight of fantasy by saying they were intending to sign, among others, Romario, Jorginho, Claudio Caniggia and Edmundo. The club are broke and will be lucky to get any of them.

Jair Pereira also left Corinthians and was replaced by Mario Sergio, who was manager of the club for five months in 1993.

Sent off in title play-off . . . Branco

Palmeiras had won their semi-final 5-2 against Guarani who had been the only pleasant surprise of an otherwise overblown, over-long tournament. Led by 20-year-old striker Amoroso, the latest candidate to replace either Bebeto or Romario, Guarani were one of the few teams to play open football but were denied the services of Amoroso in the semi-finals through injury.

Corinthians' semi-final against Atletico Mineiro had finished 3-3 on aggregate but Corinthians went through with the better overall record in the competition. The second leg tie was watched by just 10,000 people after yet another episode of mind-boggling incompetence led to the venue being confirmed a mere 18 hours before kick-off.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

Argentina

Maradona on the move

DIEGO MARADONA finally led Deportivo Mandiyu to victory in his ninth match in charge – a 3-0 home victory against newly-promoted Gimnasia y Esgrima de Jujuy – but has since resigned after only three months in the job.

Maradona had hinted that a victory was just around the corner when they drew 2-2 with River Plate after leading 2-0 until five minutes before half-time.

However, Maradona said that club president Roberto Cruz came into the dressing room after the team had lost against Newell's Old Boys and said "things he should not have said".

Maradona has since signed to coach Racing Club of Buenos Aires in succession to Luis Cubilla. The deal was formally completed live on television. Maradona is reputed to be on £750,000 a year.

Another coach on the move was Cesar Menotti. The former national coach has resigned as coach of struggling Boca Juniors. His decision came just hours after his team lost 3-0 to arch-rivals River Plate.

Boca Juniors continue to give average and erratic performances to stay in mid-table. They owe a lot to goalkeeper, Carlos Navarro Montoya, who continues his fight for FIFA to allow him to play for Argentina.

He was born in Colombia of Argentinian parents, and played three World Cup qualifying games for Colombia some time back. Argentina's national coach, Daniel Passarella, said he would pick him if he could.

In the championship, River Plate, one of two unbeaten teams, have been playing better away from home – because of the pressure, the players say.

Velez Sarsfield, with their minds more on the World Club Cup, were two points behind River Plate with an extra game played, and San Lorenzo, were three behind but have a game in hand.

San Lorenzo are getting most of their attacking inspiration from Brazilian Paulo Silas, arguably the best player in the championship.

Argentinos Juniors, whose young team play good soccer, are still in contention.

Last season's closing championship winners, Independiente, seem to be out of it. They continually played reserve teams in league games while engaged in winning the Super Cup, and lost valuable points.

While one Cordoba club, Belgrano, are doing better now, another Talleres, are in trouble. They are four points from the bottom and will lose two at the end of the championship because a fan invaded the pitch and hit a referee.

Enzo Francescoli, who returned to River Plate this season from Italy, is leading individual scorer with eight goals. He takes all the penalties and never seems to miss.

Another doping scandal has cropped up, dating back to a match between Platense and Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata last June.

A report to the police that there were drugs in the changing rooms brought immediate action from a judge, who ordered all players, including reserves, to be tested.

The samples were sent to the usual laboratory run by the government's sports department and found to be clean, but the judge was not satisfied. He ordered second samples to be analysed at the police laboratory, and traces of cocaine were found in some.

This threw suspicion on the sports department's lab, and the head doctor was suspended while investigations continued. And it prompted Diego Maradona – who may not be the best spokesman in these cases – to say that if samples were always properly tested, very few players would be able to continue playing (which only confirms what was said in *WORLD SOCCER*'s November issue).

The indomitable Diego, of all people, called for a players' strike against massive drug testing!

ERIC WEIL

● MARADONA returned to the playing field in an exhibition tournament in Mexico organised by the International Fast Soccer Federation, which is not affiliated to FIFA. However, he has since said, in an interview with *France Football* magazine, that his playing days are over.

Peru

Sporting sign skipper Soto

CHAMPIONS Sporting Cristal have finally lured Jose Soto away from rivals Alianza Lima for a reported fee of $320,000 an internal record.

Soto is Peru's best defender and captain of the national side. He was apparently convinced to move by his brother Jorge, already established in Crustal's defence.

The record fee confirms both Cristal's financial pre-eminence, thanks to hefty sponsorship from a brewery, and their appetite for international success.

Jose Soto should solve one of Cristal's most evident problems, a defence that has proved suspect against top international sides, but Juan Carlos Oblitas, the manager, has made no secret of the fact that he also is looking for a midfielder and a striker before the Copa Libertadores starts in February.

Country calling . . . Cristal boss Juan Carlos Oblitas on international duty in 1982

Alianza Lima look set to take the second Peruvian place in the Libertadores, after winning the derby against a jaded Universitario side in the final stages of the end-of-season play-offs.

But whatever the final outcome, it seems likely that only Cristal will progress much beyond the second round of the international competition.

Most of Alianza's players will be out of contract at the end of the season, and key figures such as Mario Valencia, Juan Carlos Kopriva and Juan Saavedra already certainly will be leaving.

At the same time, there is doubt about the future of Carlos Enrique and Juan Jose Jayo Legario, who scored both the goals that beat Universitario.

On the other hand, the 'U', last year's champions, have a rapidly ageing side, and the financial crisis that has prevented them from paying bonuses due to their players probably will mean they are unable to sign first-rate replacements.

Their only newcomer todate is Carlos 'Kukin' Flores, a player of evident skill but dropped by his previous club, Sport Boys, after a series of spectacularly violent challenges and subsequent red cards.

PETE HUDSON

Bolivia

President on hunger strike

A GENERAL strike was called in the district of Tarija because local team, Ciclon, did not qualify for the season's final round.

That was in spite of winning one group of the second stage of the championship. The club's president, Jaime Urquilola, even went on a hunger strike.

The locals did not agree with the rules of the championship in which the top two in the first stage – Wilsterman and Independiente Petrolero – qualified, but not the top two of the second stage. The other four places in the six-team final round went to Bolivar, Real Santa Cruz, The Strongest and Guabira, who had obtained most points in both stages. Ciclon had had a poor first half.

Independiente Petrolero's Argentinian striker, Oscar Gonzalez, was leading scorer with 17 goals, followed by compatriot Walter Malado (Wilsterman) and Herbert Arandia (Blooming) with 14.

ERIC WEIL

Brazil

Larazoni resigns

FORMER national team coach Sebastiao Lazaroni has resigned as coach of Vasco da Gama after five difficult months in charge.

Lazaroni's appointment was greeted with a wave of apprehension when he was made manager in August. Brazilian supporters were still hugely suspicious of the man who had led Brazil when they produced one of their one worst-ever World Cup campaigns.

To regain the respect of the fans, Lazaroni needed to show he was providing firm leadership himself while his team had to play attacking football and reach at the very least, the quarter-finals of the competition.

He and his team failed on all counts.

Lazaroni's choice of tactics and players were often baffling. Vasco fans were particularly incensed when he dropped 19-year-old left-back Bruno Carvalho, the team's best player, for a match away to Santos. Lazaroni said it was to show Bruno that "there is a tough side to professional soccer." Bruno stayed on the bench and Vasco lost 3-0.

Equally perplexing was Lazaroni's choice of striking partner for Valdir in attack. Vasco have one of the best youth training programmes in Brazil yet Lazaroni opted to sign veteran winger Joao Paulo on loan instead of promoting one of the many keen hopefuls from the youth team.

Elsewhere, Lazaroni chopped and changed endlessly and continued to exasperate the media with his long-winded way of speaking, which has been dubbed 'Lazaronese'.

Lazaroni complained of indiscipline among his players without ever looking capable of imposing it himself. "Some players turn up here for training in the afternoon saying they haven't eaten all day. What can I do?" he said. He also invoked the wrath of the training staff by complaining that the team was in poor shape physically.

Vasco's undeniably talented young side failed to make the quarter-finals and by the dying stages, the team was clearly short of enthusiasm and motivation. The atmosphere spread to the terraces – Vasco's last game at home to Parana was watched by just 71 fans.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

Banned for life . . . Roberto Rojas

El Condor returns

Eric Weil talks to the 'keeper banned for life by FIFA who dreams of playing again

THE CONDOR is still hoping to fly again – fly through the air and save a goal against Chile, as he used to do.

Roberto Rojas, alias El Condor, is the man banned from soccer for life by FIFA for feigning injury – face burns from fireworks – during a World Cup qualifying match against Brazil in Rio in 1989.

He does not like to talk about it. "In the heat of battle you tend to do things which you then regret for the rest of your life," he says.

But Rojas is a dreamer, and when we met he had just had a dream that he was allowed to play for Chile again. In the last qualifying match for the next World Cup in France we needed a draw to qualify," he said. "There was a minute to go and the score was 0-0 and a penalty was awarded against us. I saved it and Chile qualified.

"After that I retired happily because I had done my duty for my country ad we were all square," he said. In 1989, Chile had also been banned from the next World Cup.

Rojas is filled with emotion when he thinks that this dream might one day become reality. He has gone through some hard times, both personally and financially, but thanks to his great faith in God – particularly as an Evangelist preacher for the Sportsmen of God group – he has come out of the depths, and matured.

"The first thing you have to do to be able to live in peace with your mind is to realise that you were wrong. I accepted this and that is why I am not so worried about the future now."

Rojas played in goal for Chilean clubs Aviacion and Colo Colo, and for Sao Paulo in Brazil, as well as his national team.

Recently he was offered a job by Sao Paulo, as goalkeeper coach, and he has left for Brazil.

"I see things differently these days," he said. "One has to learn from errors, and I did. If they hadn't taken me away from my profession I would never have been able to balance properly what I did and didn't do in soccer. Now, at 37, I am at an age when I can accept the bad and the good things just as easily.

"For the moment the idea is for me to coach junior goalkeepers, but Sao Paulo are hoping it might be possible to get the ban lifted in the not too distant future.

"Then I would play four or five months in their senior team, after which they would transfer me to a Japanese club. It seems that they have already talked to the Japanese. Of course, they want to recuperate the money they laid out when they originally signed me."

Rojas did not know how much he was going to be paid when he left for Brazil, but said that was not his major concern.

"The most important thing was that they took an interest in me and they are engaging me because they think I can do something for them. Sao Paulo do not sign anyone unless they are sure of the person's good character.

"This is important for me because I realise that they remember when I played for them."

Rojas has been through some hard times since his ban.

"Fortunately I had the support of my family and some of my former team-mates, such as Jaime Vera, Alejandro Hisis, Hugo Gonzalez and Leonardo Canales, and friends. God never abandoned me.

"My financial situation became complicated because I had to pay off instalments I had taken on before I suddenly had to stop playing. I was helped by several people as well as Colo Colo and their president, Eduardo Menichetti, who gave me the chance to work in the club's soccer school.

What will happen if he is not allowed to play again?

"It would be just the same for me. God knows why he does things. Of course I would love to be back on the field, not only to show whether I am good or bad, but also to have the chance to thank all those people that helped me and to repay them for my mistake.

"I am still the only player who has received a life ban. The punishment is too harsh!"

ERIC WEIL

Uruguay

Penarol take 31st title

PENAROL have retained the First Division title which they have deserved all season.

This season's championship featured a slightly changed format in two separate rounds with the winner of each playing off for the title. Penarol won both rounds, but during their first-round clash with traditional rivals Nacional there was crowd trouble and a fan was killed.

The FA took four points off each club so Penarol finished second to Defensor Sporting.

The first play-off ended 1-1 with Defensor equalising in the final minute. The second game ended with the same score, Defensor equalising 19 minutes from the end.

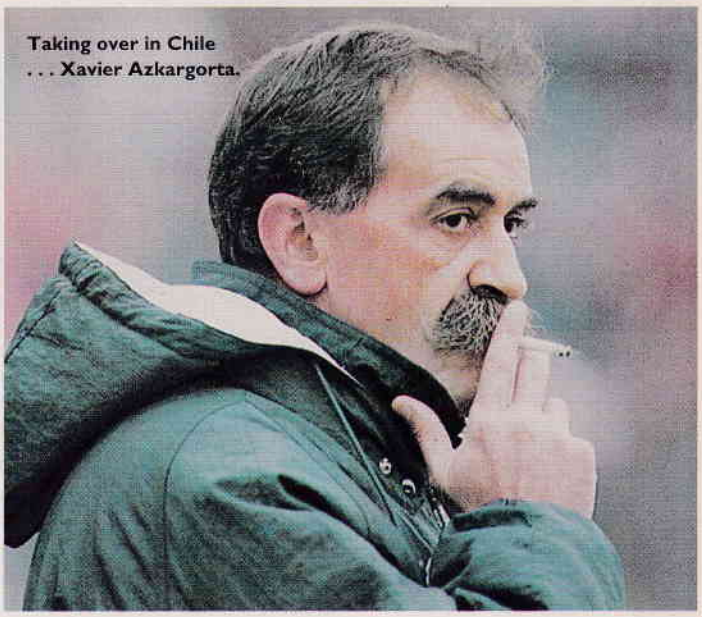
In a third play-off, Defensor took the lead in the first half and held it until 10 minutes from time. Then Penarol equalised, and their winner came in the final minute – fittingly from the season's top scorer, Dario Silva. It was Penarol's 31st title.

The First Division is followed by the 'Liguilla' (little league) between the clubs collecting most points during the season – Penarol, Defensor Sporting, Nacional, Cerro, River Plate and promotion winners Sudamerica – to choose Uruguay's two Libertadores Cup representatives.

Uruguay is the only South American country in which the champions do not automatically qualify for the Libertadores Cup. But if the champions do not finish in the Liguilla's top two they get another chance to play off for a place, against the runners-up.

ERIC WEIL

- **IN COLOMBIA:** Drug testing has been introduced for the first time. Tests will be made on players taking part in the semi-final round. Independiente Medellin, Nacional Medellin, America and Millionarios made it through to the final round.
- IN CHILE: **Universidad Catolica lost only their second game of 25, and were caught up by Santiago rivals Universidad de Chile, who had been chasing them all the way. Catolica's Argentinian international striker, Alberto Acosta, was leading scorer with 28 goals, and the clubs were due to meet (with four games to go) in what was expected to be a virtual title decider.**
- **IN PARAGUAY:** Olimpia, who have lost only two points out of 30, lead the second round by four points from Cerro Porteno, who won the first. The two winners will then play off for the title and both will qualify for the next Libertadores Cup. Olimpia are virtually sure of a place, because Nacional are seven points behind in third. Hector Nunez (Cerro Porteno) is top scorer with 27 goals.
- IN ECUADOR: **Defending champions Emelec secured the championship, drawing 1-1 draw with Aucas to finish top of the six-team final stage.**



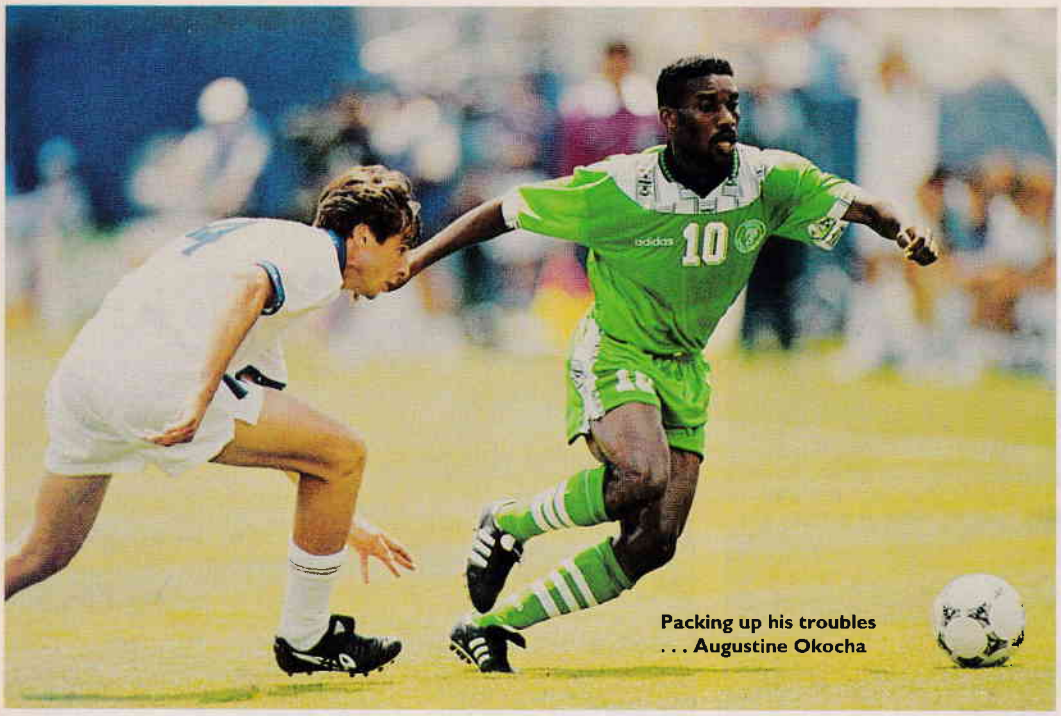
Taking over in Chile . . . Xavier Azkargorta.

MEN IN THE NEWS

- XAVIER AZKARGORTA, **Bolivia's Spanish-born national coach at last year's World Cup, has accepted the job of Chilean national team coach. He takes over from Yugoslavian Mirko Josic, who did not want to renew his contract.**
- **MULLER**, the former Brazilian international striker, has been sold by Sao Paulo to Japanese club Kashiwa Reysol for $1.75million. His two-year contract is reported to be worth $1.15million.
- RICARDO CARECA, **the former Argentinian international striker, has decided to retire. During 16 years he played for Boca Juniors, America (Colombia) and Independiente, among others, and was still a frequent scorer for the latter club at the time of his retirement, aged 37.**

Results and tables start on page 56.

ERIC WEIL



Packing up his troubles . . . Augustine Okocha

Jay-Jay on his way

Augustine 'Jay-Jay' Okocha is set to leave Germany after a bust-up with Eintracht Frankfurt. Peter Law spoke to the troubled Nigerian star

A NIGERIAN of 20 was described last year as "appearing to have the wiles of Pele and Maradona combined". Augustine 'Jay-Jay' Okocha – now all of 21 – has become a firm favourite with fans of his German club Eintracht Frankfurt, and his country. But all is not well in Germany. The departure of coach Dragoslav Stepanovic led to selection problems and a showdown with new boss Jupp Heynckes. Okocha, Ghanaian Anthony Yeboah and Maurizio Gaudino were dropped and then transfer-listed after refusing to play against Hamburg.

WORLD SOCCER: How did you adapt to life in Germany as a black footballer?
AO: At first it was very difficult, but I was lucky to find some good German friends and a coach who supported me. Later on with Eintracht it was good, because Stepanovic treated me like his own son. The racist insults at the stadiums stopped after a government campaign last year. Eintracht fans love me. If I am on the bench they demand for me to appear.

A player of your ability on the bench?
It's true. After Stepanovic left big problems started for me, especially from the coaches, and I had no support from the club presidents. I think that the German trainers don't want to make a black player the playmaker at the head of the team. They invent new reasons to bench me, even when I have played well, scoring and creating a lot of goals.

How do you intend to handle these problems in the future?
I have made up my mind to leave Eintracht. My favourite football country is England, with the Premier League. The football is clean and fair, and I like the English people, especially their sense of humour. Don't forget, I speak English.

Would you be ready for an immediate move?
Certainly, if the offer was OK. The phone has been ringing a lot recently.

The Germans would lose one of their most promising talents if you were to go.
Thank you. I am really sorry for the German fans. They are magnificent and Frankfurt has been a good city for me, but I have to look out for my career.

You gave an illuminating performance at Wembley late last year. How has your career progressed up to now?
I left Nigeria at the age of 17, going to Germany on my own to look for a club. I got an offer from Third Division Borussia Neunkirchen. After one year I was called for by Eintracht Frankfurt and the then manager Dragoslav Stepanovic. I started in the 1992-93 season, making 20 League appearances besides three UEFA Cup games in midfield. After that my efforts were recognised by my country, and I was called up for the national team, starting with the World Cup qualifier against Ivory Coast in May 1993.

At last year's African Nations Cup, Nigeria won and you were selected for the All Star Team, ahead of Abedi Pele of Ghana. How did that feel for a 20-year-old?
Abedi is a really great player, but for Ghana the tournament did not work out, due to internal troubles. We had our World Cup tickets in our pockets and could play freely. With quality players around me, it is easy to perform well.

Why was it that in the World Cup finals you played only one full match, against Italy?
Unfortunately I got a painful injury in our last friendly against a US college side three days before the competition started. The pain was so bad that I couldn't even walk for a week. Even in the Italy match it was still a problem, so I could only use my right foot to play the ball, otherwise . . .

What is the status of football in Nigeria?
Like a religion! From the President to the poorest man everybody is both football fanatic and expert. After our Nations Cup victory in April, a crowd of over a million people welcomed us back at Ibidan. It was fantastic.

● As widely expected, Nigerian international Emmanual Amunike has been voted African player of the year by the CAF. In the voting, Amunike received 48 points, with fellow countryman Rashidi Yekini and Liberia's George Weah joint second on 44 points.

WEST AFRICA

CAMEROON
ROGER MILLA scored two goals in the quarter-final and another in the Final of the Cameroonian Cup, but could not help Tonnerre Yaounde to the trophy. A Second Division club, Olympic Mvolye, won 2-1. Milla also had a goal disallowed in the final and was booked for disputing a throw-in.

The match was supposed to be his last, but a week later he was playing again for his country, against South Africa. The match was drawn 1-1 – and Milla was booked again. Milla has since signed for Indonesia's Pelita Jaya.

CONGO
TWO finals were held at the end of last year in the coastal town of Pointe Noire to settle both the championship and the cup. Etoile du Congo won the championship with a 2-0 win over Inter Club, who also lost to EpB in the Cup Final, going down 1-0 after extra-time.

GABON
MANGASPORT, coached by national manager Alain da Costa Gomes, held off Petrosport to win the national cup. The Moanda-based club were coasting at 3-0 up at half-time but Petrosport fought back to 3-3 with goals from Cameroonian imports Balep and Bang Penda and former international Ongagna. Mangasport blushes were saved when Aurelien Bekogo grabbed the winner two minutes from time.

GUINEA-BISSAU
THE CAF has confirmed that Guinea-Bissau have withdrawn from the qualifying tournament for the 1996 African Nations Cup.

IVORY COAST
ASEC ABIDJAN won a fifth successive league title, beating Africa Sports on goal difference after the completion of the final round.

A 5-0 win over Rio d'Anyama in their last league game of the year put ASEC level with Africa on 18 points from 10 matches, but with a superior goal difference of five. Sekou Bamba scored a hat-trick, and Abdoulaye Traore got the other two goals.

Traore finished as top marksman with 11 goals, one more than Ahmed Ouattara of Africa Sports. Bamba was third in the standings with nine goals. ASEC are coached by Swiss-born Charles Roessli.

NIGERIA
CAF CUP-WINNERS Bendel Insurance added another title to their collection just before Christmas with a 2-1 aggregate win over compatriots Plateau United in the West African Football Union (WAFU) Cup final. The team from Benin City won the first leg 1-0 and drew the return game in Lagos 1-1.

● A young Nigerian player sent home from Egypt for allegedly being afected with the AIDS virus has denied he has the disease. Yusef Omar, who played for Olympic of Alexandria, said further tests back home in Kano had shown he was not infected. Foreigners resident in Egypt must pass an AIDS test and are deported if they test positive.

MARK GLEESON

The comeback kids

Mark Gleeson reviews the finals of the continental cup competitions

They might be giants . . . but Kenya Breweries lost the Cup-winners Cup Final

CUP-WINNERS CUP

ZAIRE's Daring Club Motema Pembe pulled off one of the most remarkable comebacks in African cup final history with a stunning win over Kenya Breweries in the African Cup-winners Cup Final.

The Kinshasa club, playing in their first continental competition final, looked dead and buried after being held at home in the first leg by the Brewers.

The 2-2 draw at Kinshasa's new national stadium seemingly set Breweries on the right path in a tournament which only one other east African team had ever won before.

But in the second leg at the Nyayo national stadium in Nairobi, the home side had little answer for an opportunistic Zairian side, who flew into town less than 24 hours before the match and then straight out again with the Nelson Mandela Trophy firmly in their grasp.

The Zairians took an early lead when Matudidi Mbemba scored after just four minutes from a corner kick and the confidence quickly ebbed from Breweries. The home side did look dangerous on set-pieces, but they tried to dribble their way to victory on a bumpy pitch and would have been better served by playing the ball down the wings and crossing in to capitalise on their height advantage.

When Matudidi slammed home a second goal just before the half-hour mark the match was all but lost. Breweries never looked like coming back in the second half as the Zairians toyed with their opponents and a disappointing 40,000 crowd who had come expecting the Kenyans to win.

To crown an emphatic performance, Biyavanga Kapela slammed home a long-range free-kick seven minutes from time for a 3-0 win and a 5-2 triumph on aggregate.

It was the first time a Zairian club had won an African trophy in 12 years since TP Mazembe won the Cup-winners Cup back in 1982.

● Zairian clubs have been given a reprieve by the CAF and allowed to compete in the 1995 tournaments. They had initially been banned for a year for persistent bad organisation of international matches.

CHAMPIONS CUP

ESPERANCE of Tunis became only the second club from Tunisia to win the African Champions Cup, following their victory over Zamalek of Egypt, long-time rivals and one of African soccer's most successful clubs.

Esperance had looked a god bet for the trophy from the outset when they beat Etoile Filante of Burkina Faso 8-2 on aggregate in the first round. By the time they reached the final, the Tunisians had scored 21 goals, most from their feared frontrunners Ayed Hamrouni and Zambian import Kenneth Malitoli.

Zamalek, by contrast, limped into the Final, clearly missing the scoring talent of Nigerian Emmanuel Amunike, sold to Sporting Lisbon in the summer.

Not even new Austrian-born coach Alfred Riedle nor Ghanaian imports Oscar Laud and Joe Okyere could inspire a flagging side.

In the first leg of the Final, in front of 90,000 fanatical fans at the National stadium in Cairo, Zamalek could not find the net and were held to a goalless draw. Laud had a strike disallowed in the 70th minute but it was not until three minutes from time in the second leg that the Egyptians finally got a goal – and by then it was far too late.

The second leg proved easy for the Tunisians with Hedi Berrekhissa scoring twice and defender Ali Ben Neji getting a third in a 3-1 win.

Berrekhissa, a recent recruit to the new-look Tunisian national team, scored after 16 minutes and then again on the hour mark, with Ben Neji converting a 52nd-minute penalty. Effat Nasser's goal in the 87th minute was scant consolation for Zamalek, who missed becoming only the second team to successfully defend the trophy.

CAF CUP

BENDEL INSURANCE became the second Nigerian club to win the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Cup, beating Primiero Maio of Angola in the Final.

They won 3-1 on aggregate but had to come from behind for their victory after Primiero Maio, the first Angolan club to reach the final of an Africa club competition, won the first leg in Luanda 1-0 thanks to a late goal from Nelito.

That advantage was never enough to take to Benin City for the return game, and Bendel Insurance wiped out the advantage after only four minutes through Clement Osahon. Monday Osagie added a second in the 38th minute, and Mfon Bassey made sure of victory with a third just after half-time.

Bendel's victory followed that of compatriots Shooting Stars, winners of the inaugural tournament in 1992.

EAST AFRICA

Tanzania triumph

TANZANIA won the 20th edition of the East and Central Africa Challenge Cup, held in Kenya, winning 4-3 on penalties after drawing 2-2 with Uganda after extra time.

This was their first win in the tournament since 1974 and confirmed their recently-acquired status as the region's leading team. They are also in contention to qualify for the African Nations Cup for the first time.

The Tanzanians looked to be cruising to victory and were two up at half-time thanks to goals from Juma Amir and Said Mwamba, but the Cranes struck back immediately after the break thanks to midfielder Iddi Batambuze.

Two minutes from the whistle they equalised through defender George Semogerere, but they blew their chances of retaining the trophy by missing two kicks in the shoot-out.

The tournament rose above the poor playing conditions, particularly at Mumias, and some excellent matches took place. Neither of the finalists conceded a goal until the Final.

The big surprise was caused by Eritrea, playing their first international matches. They are not members of FIFA or CAF, and had to have special dispensation to take part, but reached the semi-final without conceding a goal and eventually finished in fourth place.

Megash Teklit and Amanuel Eyasu, both previously Ethiopian internationals before Eritrea became independent, were outstanding, and so was striker Yidnechaw Shimpneus.

Djibouti also played their first matches away, and Somalia returned to the international stage after several years with a makeshift team put together by a US aid agency.

KENYA

SAMMY OMOLLO, Kenya Breweries' international defender, is set to join struggling English Second Division club Bournemouth. He had trials last year, and Chairman Ken Gardiner saw him play again while on holiday in Africa recently.

PHIL MINSHULL

UGANDA

NAKIVUBO VILLA, the Ugandan champions, will not play in this year's African Champions Cup because they still owe more than $100,000 after withdrawing from the 1993 tournament.

Villa pulled out at the quarter-final stage, saying they could not afford to play the second leg in Ivory Coast against ASEC Abidjan. They were ordered to pay $90,000 compensation for the costs ASEC incurred in travelling to Kampala, but failed to pay up.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

PETRO LUANDA qualified for a third successive Angolan Cup Final and a chance of the League and Cup double. They play mid-table Independente Tombwa in the decider. Petro have won the Cup three times in the past seven seasons.

BOTSWANA

LOBATSE GUNNERS won a third successive title with a runaway seven-point lead over Township Rollers. Rollers won the Coca-Cola Cup, the country's major knock-out competition, beating Gunners 2-0 in the Final.

MOZAMBIQUE

A 1-0 WIN over Ferroviario Maputo gave army team Maxaquene victory in the Mozambican Cup. Costa do Sol won a third successive championship with Ferroviario finishing second.

NAMIBIA

BLACK AFRICA won the championship, and Blue Waters won the NFA Cup.

SWAZILAND

THE INGENIOUSLY named Eleven Men in Flight have won their first championship – after just three seasons in the First Division. A 3-2 win in their final match of the season over Mbabane Swallows was enough to win the title on goal difference from Swallows, who had led for most of the year and needed just a draw to secure top spot.

ZIMBABWE

REINHARD FABISCH has been reappointed as Zimbabwe's national coach after a completing a 12-month ban for verbally abusng a referee at an international match.

NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

FOUR successive wins have seen Zamalek shoot up the league table with just one point dropped from their seven matches played in the championship so far. They have played three games fewer than leaders Ismailia, who have 22 points, one more than Al Ahly and two more than Zamalek.

MOROCCO

WYDAD CASABLANCA took the Throne Cup with a 1-0 win over Second Division Olympique de Khouribga. Mestouri scored the only goal on 15 minutes, in front of 80,000 spectators at Casablanca's Mohamed V stadium.

Cod Meknes lead the table as the clubs approach the halfway mark of the season. They have a two point lead over defending champions Olympic Casablanca.

TUNISIA

CHAMPIONS CUP-WINNERS Esperance share top spot after 12 rounds of the championship with Etoile Sahel and CS Sfaxien, but have several games in hand after their campaign in the continental cup competition.

In the Arab Club Championship, CA Bizerte managed to reach the semi-finals in Saudi Arabia but lost to eventual winners Al Hilal. Algerian club JS Kabylie were also losing semi-finalists while Sudan's El Merreikh did not make it past the opening group stage.

MARK GLEESON

UNITED STATES

Money to burn . . . but how will it be spent?

THANKS to the World Cup, money is no longer a problem for soccer in the United States – the Soccer Federation have more than $40million in the coffers.

The new problem is how to spend it efficiently and sensibly. There is no sign that this is likely to happen as there is no leadership from the USSF. To take but one example – consider the conflict between indoor and outdoor soccer.

There are two indoor leagues here, the Continental Indoor Soccer League (CISL) and the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL). Both play a form of the game that features side-boards and all sort of rules that are based on ice hockey. The rules are very different from those laid down by FIFA for five-a-side football.

Yet these two leagues are members of, and have considerable voting strength within, the USSF.

Even without the complication of indoor soccer, the outdoor game is never short of problems. The promised pro league is still nothing more than a dream, while the pro league that does exist – the American Professional Soccer League (APSL) – has enormous problems.

'College soccer remains a shaky basis for the pro game because colleges do not give a hoot about it'

APSL played last year with only seven clubs, three of them Canadian. The idea of an American pro league including foreign clubs is almost certainly against USSF regulations – though the USSF (once again showing resolute leadership qualities) did bend the rules a bit and allow the Canadian clubs to enter, on a provisional basis.

The APSL says it will continue to operate, but with how many clubs? Of last year's seven, Toronto Rockets and Fort Lauderdale Strikers are considered shaky franchises.

A new franchise in Atlanta has been added, but attempts to poach clubs such as Detroit Wheels from the semi-pro United States Interregional Soccer League (USISL) have not worked out.

It is not just the pro level that is in a mess. The USSF are in the process of reappointing Bora Milutinovic as national team coach. This does not look like a well thought-out move. He was appointed in 1991 with one task: to make sure that the USA advanced into the second round of the 1994 World Cup. He accomplished that, just, without really changing anything in the structure or outlook of American soccer.

The USA now need a coach, as well as a Federation, who will impose leadership, who will attempt to draw together the various strands of the sport into a powerful whole.

Anyone who saw the USA against England at Wembley last year must realise just how far the team are from being any sort of threat at world level.

There also has been a total shambles at the under-17 level. The former coach, Welshman Roy Rees, had held the job for six years and done an excellent job, qualifying for all four under-17 World Cups in that period, doing reasonably well in the final rounds. He was replaced last year, for largely political reasons. He did not hit it off with some of the administrators at USSF headquarters.

His replacement was Manny Schellscheidt, another excellent youth coach. He too, has now gone, after only a year – and again the main reason is organisational confusion. A big factor was the USSF's inability to persuade Schellscheidt that he should take the job full-time, and give up the security of his college coaching job.

Colleges allow players to play only about 25 games a year. Everyone knows that is absurd, yet little is done about it. Hank Steinbrecher, the USSF general secretary, has admitted the development of players "continues to be seriously hampered by limitations placed on soccer players by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)." So what does the USSF do to change the situation? In a word, nothing.

Despite the damaging restrictions, there is movement within the college game. Most of this, ironically, can be put down to the clubs, who are now sending better players to the colleges.

A handful of coaches are beginning to give the game a more serious outlook. The college rules are still not FIFA rules (they permit liberal substitution and have television time-outs), but the game now has a more down-to-earth look about it.

Even so, college soccer remains a shaky basis for the pro game because the colleges, in general, do not give a hoot about it.

At Central Michigan University, soccer coach Rick Trainor was callled in by his boss and told bluntly, without any forewarning, that he was out of a job and that his soccer programme had been eliminated.

The colleges also have the decidedly undemocratic disadvantage of being heavily slanted towards the white middle-class player. This works against the growing Hispanic soccer community. Which in turn – though the USSF remains stubbornly blind to it – works against the USSF's own interests by ignoring a wealth of soccer talent.

If all of that does not add up to enough conflicts to be going on with, I can confidently predict that a new one is about to be added. Namely: what to do with that $40million? We're back to the all those divisions again.

PAUL GARDNER

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Winner with Necaxa's Aquinaga

NECAXA of Mexico won the third Miller Genuine Draft La Copa de Etiqueta Negra, formerly known as the Cup-winners Cup, beating Guatemala's Aurora 3-0 in the final in Miami.

Early goals by Ecuadorian Alex Aguinaga and Manuel Sol put the Mexicans in a comfortable position, and a third by Ricardo Pelaez in the 53rd minute header shut the door.

Real Maya of Honduras won the third-place match, 1-0, over Lambada of Barbados, through a 45th-minute penalty by Jose Antonio Hernandez.

To reach the final Necaxa had overcome Lambada 4-1, while Aurora beat Real Maya 2-1.

MEXICO

MEXICO has an answer to Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta – Francois Omam-Biyik of Club American and Cameroon.

Omam-Biyik scored in a record 10 consecutive First Division matches, claiming 15 goals in all, including four in a 7-3 rout of Morelia.

Omam-Biyik's progress in Mexican football has been nothing short of sensational. Although he scored the winner against Argentina to open Italia '90, he struggled in the French League and had an indifferent World Cup '94 campaign, but since his surprise move to Mexico City there has been no stopping him.

Club America, with a record four CONCACAF titles and an Inter-American Cup championship, are arguably the region's top side.

On my head Biyik . . . Francois Omam-Biyik

They led Group One with 21 points from 14 matches. Cruz Azul, Puebla and Monterrey led the other groups.

● Mexico is to bid to stage the 2002 World Cup, FIFA has confirmed.

HONDURAS

AN OPENING seven-game winning streak has done wonders for Olimpia, who opened up a seven-point lead.

Cristian Santamaria (six goals) and Juan Flores (five) put the Tegucigalpa club into a position where people are already having to guess who will finish second.

Motagua seem to be the only squad capable of launching a sustained challenge. A convincing 3-1 win over Cup-holders Marathon had many believing that they pose a threat.

EL SALVADOR

LEADERS FAS have acquired US international Hugo Perez from Los Angeles Salsa, bringing the player back to the country of his birth.

FAS man . . . Hugo Perez

Argentinian Deonel Bordon scored two of the three FAS goals in a win over Limeno that gave the club a four-point advantage over Luis Angel Firpo.

GUATEMALA

IF THERE is to be a challenge to leaders Municipal and Comunicaciones, it must be with an 'all or nothing' attitude.

One finally emerged – Suchitepequez, in third place and the only team in the League without a draw. In 12 matches, they had seven wins and five losses. Equally important, though, is the that they scored 21 goals, two more than table-toppers Municipal.

That attacking philosophy has paid handsomely for Luis Orlando Vallejo, who leads the scorers' list with 10 goals.

BERMUDA

BERMUDA'S Olympic team have been suspended by CONCACAF after seven players were charged in Florida with importing marijuana.

The players, members of the under-23 team, were arrested at Miami airport and face a two-year ban if found guilty.

SCOTT GLEBA

See Lazio take on Milan in Rome

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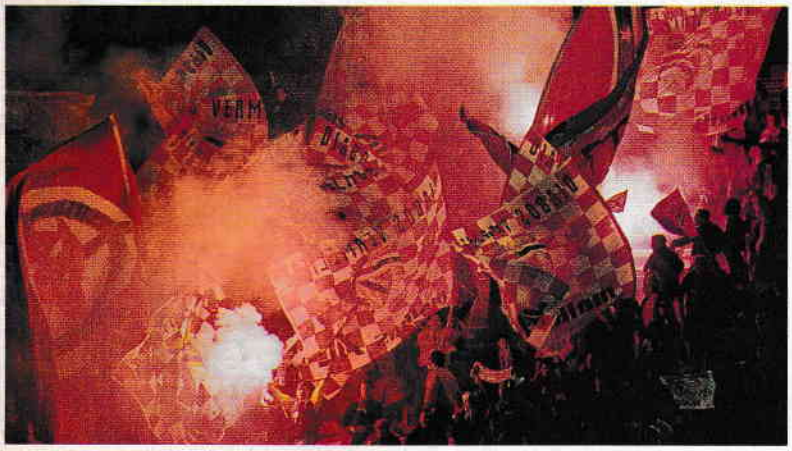

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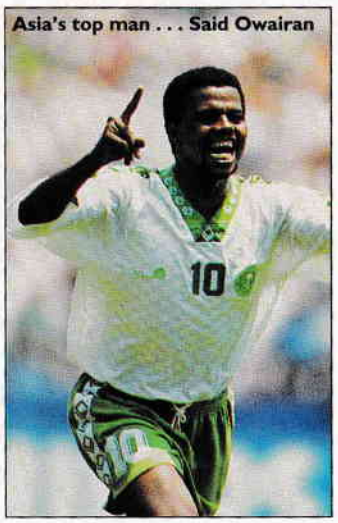
Owairan tops

SAID OWAIRAN of Saudi Arabia has been named Asian Footballer of the Year by the Asian Football Confederation.

Owairan's stunning 70-yard solo goal that gave the Saudis a shock win over Belgium was one of the most memorable moments of World Cup '94.

Hwang Sun-hong of South Korea was named Asia's Leading Goalscorer while team-mate Hong Myung-bo picked up the award as Asia's Best Defender. Coach of the Year was Chanvit Polchivin of Thai Farmers and Bahrain's Hamoud Madkhoor was Goalkeeper of the Year.



Asia's top man . . . Said Owairan

CHINA

LI BING was named Player of the Year after the first season of China's fully professional League.

The 25-year-old striker, one of the tallest players in the League at 6ft 3ins, scored 10 goals as Liaoning finished fourth in the 12-team table, eight points adrift of champions Dalian.

Li made his international debut in 1992 and was in the squad which finished third in the 1992 Asian Cup, behind champions Japan and runners-up Saudi Arabia.

● A total of 2.176 million people attended the 132 league matches at an average of 16,600 per game.

ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

SOUTH KOREA'S Ilhwa Chunma will be the team to beat when the closing stages of the 1994-95 Asian Club Championship take place at the end of January.

Ilhwa, won all three matches in the East Asia region quarter-finals in Changwon, Korea.

They beat an under-strength Verdy Kawasaki (Japan) 3-1 in their opening game, recorded an identical scoreline against China's Liaoning and rounded off their campaign with a 1-0 victory over Thai Farmers, the Asian Club Champions from Bangkok.

Thai Farmers, Liaoning and Verdy all collected two points in the four-team round-robin but the Thai team claimed the second qualifying spot on goal difference.

Ilhwa, formed as recently as 1988, retained the Korean League title by three points from Yukong Elephants.

Their outstanding player midfielder, Ko Jeong-woon, was voted Player of the Year in Korea and was one of four Ilhswa men selected in an all-star line-up. The other three were goalkeeper Valery Sarychev, right-back. An Ik-soo and midfielder Sin Tae-yong.

The Koreans meet Al Arbai (Qatar) in the first semi-final, while Thai farmers tackle Neftchi (Uzbekistan), who won the West Asia quarter-final group.

Neftchi and Al Arabi finished first and second in the West Asia group, above Al Wasl (UAE) and Answar (Lebanon).

The semi-finals, third place play-off and final will be held on January 27 and January 29 – at one venue, probably Bangkok.

In the East Asia section of the Cup-winners Cup, Japan's Yokohama Flugels meet Thailand's Telephone Organisation for a place in the final.

In the West Asia section, Al Sha'ab, from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, will meet either Al Ittihad (Saudi Arabia) or Al Sadd (Qatar).

The semi-finals, third place play-off and final will be held on two dates – January 20 and January 22 – at one venue, probably Sharjah.

NEPAL

NEPAL is to introduce its first national league.

The proposed league will start in March with 18 teams.

SAUDI ARABIA

CHAMPIONS Al Nasr, coached by Frenchman Henri Michel, lead the standings after five rounds of matches with 12 points, one clear of Al Ittifaq.

Al Ittihad have fired Scotsman Ian Porterfield as coach after only two league games. Porterfield has been replaced by Saudi Abdullah Ghorab and looks set to join Second Division club Al Nahdha – provided Al Nahdha agree to transfer striker Nasser Al Blia to Al Ittihad.

Al Hilal are hoping to employ Brazil's 1990 World Cup coach, Sebastiao Lazaroni, who recently resigned as coach of Vasco Da Gama.

The Saudi Arabian Football Federation has been fined $10,000 by the AFC following violent conduct by members of their under-16 team in the Asian Youth Championship in Doha, Qatar, last October.

After the young Saudis had lost 2-1 to China in their final preliminary group game, several players were involved in a prolonged attack on the referee.

SRI LANKA

RENOWN have won the Bristol FA Cup.

They beat Ratnam 2-0 in the final thanks to second-half goals from Golden Boot winner Chaminda Stainwall and Anton Silva. Army Bullets won the Fair Play award.

QUARTER-FINALS: Renown 1 Maligawatte Youth 0; York 1 Saunders 1 (Saunders won penalty shootout 5-4); Army Bullets 1 Police 1 (Army Bullets won penalty shoot-out 5-4); Old Bens 1 Ratnam 1 (Ratnam won penalty shoot-out 3-2).

SEMI-FINALS: Ratnam 3 Army Bullets 0; Renown 1Saunders 0.

FINAL: Renown 2 (Chaminda Stainwall, Anton Silva) Ratnam 0.

TAIWAN

TA TUNG held off Tap Power to clinch the 1994 championship.

Ta Tung won nine and drew one of their 12 fixtures to finish on 19 points, with Tai Power runners-up on 18 points. The two leading clubs provided six players for the FA's all-star team.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ta Tung	12	9	1	2	18	7	19
Tai Power	12	8	2	2	32	13	18
Taipei Bank	12	7	2	3	21	13	16
Fei To	12	6	3	3	28	16	15
Lu Kuang	12	3	2	7	20	27	8
Chun Li	12	2	2	8	11	23	6
Ming Chuan	7	1	2	4	4	15	4
Thunderbird	7	0	0	7	3	23	0

LEADING SCORERS: Wu Kuo-ming (Tai Power) 12 and Huang Che-ming (Fei To).

ALL-STAR LINE-UP: Wang Shih-kun (Ta Tung); Chen Chiou-pih (Ta Tung), Chang Kuo-cheng (Ta Tung), Hsu Te-ming (Fei To), Ju Wenbin (Taipei Bank); Chen Jiunn-ming (Tai Power), Chen Kuei-jen (Tai Power), Yeh Ching-tueng (Tappei Bank), Wu Chun-yi (Fei To); Wu Kuo-ming (Tai Power), Huang Che-ming (Fei To).

THAILAND

NATIONAL team captain Kadalee Sirisak has been suspended for one year after failing a dope test at the Asian Games last year.

Kadalee tested positive for pseudoephedrine but claimed he had taken the medication for a common cold. The treatment had been bought over a counter at a local pharmacist.

The Asian Football Confederation took a firm stance in this landmark case and suspended him for a year, ruling the player out of the Olympic Games qualifying tournament.

The Football Association of Thailand was fined $3,000 and the Thai team doctor was severely reprimanded.

UZBEKISTAN

FOLLOWING their gold medal-winning debut at last year's Asian Games, the Uzbekistan FA was bombarded with offers from Asian clubs to sign players and members of the coaching staff.

But no-one is going anywhere, according to national coach Rustam Akramov, unless the price is right – and that means a transfer fee of $100,000 for starters.

Said Akramov: "There have been many clubs, particularly from Korea and the Arab countries, trying to sign our players. While this is very flattering, it does not mean the players will be given away for next to nothing."

JEREMY WALKER

BANGLADESH

TEN WINS and eight draws gave Abahani KC an unbeaten record and their ninth Bangladesh championship since 1972.

They had three points to spare over the second club, Muktijoddha, and completed a hat-trick of victories following their successes in the Charms Cup and the Damfa Cup.

Mohammedan SC finished third, on goal difference, and had the top scorer, Russian Andrei Kazakov, with 11 goals.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Abahani KC	18	10	8	0	33	8	28
Muktijoddha KC	18	10	5	3	29	13	25
Mohammedan SC	18	10	5	3	27	13	25
Brothers Union	18	7	8	3	26	19	22
Wari AC	18	7	4	7	16	29	18
Arambagh KC	18	6	5	7	18	19	17
Argani Bank	18	3	8	7	15	21	14
Fakirerpool	18	3	6	9	18	25	12
Bangladesh Boys	18	3	6	9	18	40	12
PWD	18	1	5	12	11	33	7

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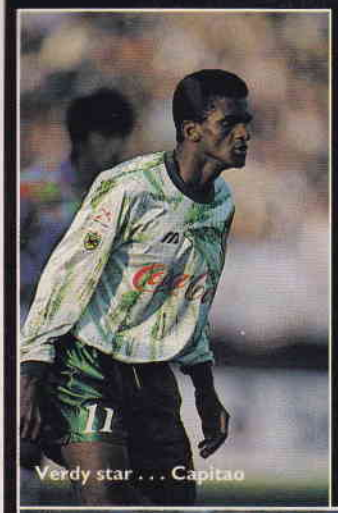
JAPAN

Victory for Verdy

VERDY KAWASAKI retained the J.League Suntory Championship with a 2-0 aggregate victory over first-stage winners Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

The steady 1-0 victories home and away may not have excited the fans as much as earlier encounters between the two – this year's results include a 5-0 win for Verdy and a 4-1 win for Sanfrecce – but they possibly reflected a higher level of tactical maturity than we have seen in the past.

The stars were the veterans, and none more so than 37-year-old Ruy Ramos, Brazilian-born but now a naturalised Japanese. He defied the leg injury that kept him out of the last three games of the Nicos Series to make the first goal and score the second.



Verdy star . . . Capitao

"I wasn't in top condition," said Ramos after the second game. "My leg hurt a lot in the first half. I said I couldn't carry on, but the manager told me to go out – and he'd take responsibility. Then I happened to score."

The goal was a gem, a teasing lob over Kazumasa Kawano, who had advanced too far off his line.

Verdy opted again to use two foreign defenders, the deployment of forces that won the Nicos Series in 1993 on the backs of Pereira and Erick Van Rossum.

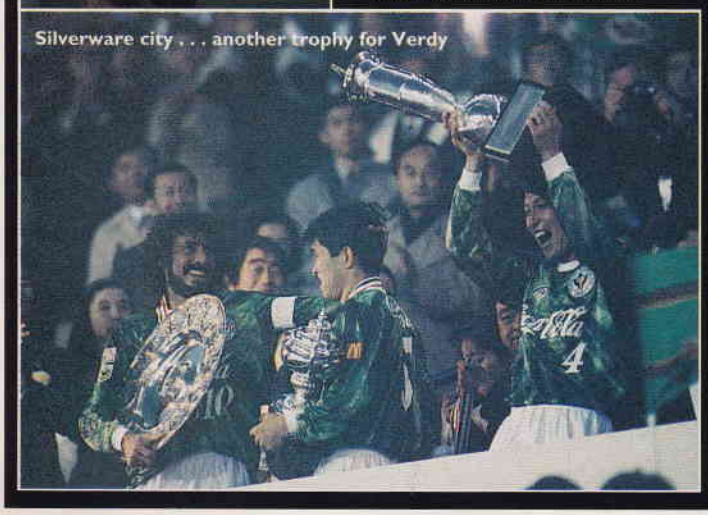
This time, the back line was sealed by Pereira and fellow Brazilian Capitao, signed from Portuguesa at the start of last year. He played midfield in the Suntory Series and was dropped for most of the Nicos games, but he shone in defence this time, especially in the second match.

A heavy challenge on Takuya Takagi just after half-time in Tokyo put Takagi out of the game with a snapped ankle tendon, and Sanfrecce's hopes all but disappeared at that moment.

Ivan Hasek, on the other hand, was controlled in that second match by 23-year-old Tadashi Nakamura, who was sent off after receiving a second yellow card a minute from the end. Manager Matsuki described the red car as "a medal".

In the first match, in Hiroshima, Verdy took the field with an average age of 29, and put the emphasis on soaking up pressure.

The goal came in the 35th minute, when Ramos played the ball to Tsuyoshi Kitazawa that caught the markers napping. Kitazawa made no mistake with only the keeper to beat.



Silverware city . . . another trophy for Verdy

Fixture chaos

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS gave departing manager Shu Kamo the send-off he wanted by advancing to the semi-final of the Asian Cup-winners Cup.

But the big story of the Asian competitions in Japan concerned chronic fixture congestion.

The problems were worst for Verdy Kawasaki, because the East Asian semi-final group of the Asian Club Championship coincided with decisive matches in the Nicos Series and the first game of the J.League Suntory Championship.

Verdy's reserves managed two draws against one defeat in South Korea, but could not advance.

Flugels likewise sent the reserves to play Instant Dict in Hong Kong during the Nicos Series. Roderick Manley and Ng Kam-Hung netted for the home team, with 20-year-old Hideaki Kaetsu scoring an away goal. Flugels could at least field a near full-strength team for the home leg, on the weekend between the Nicos series and the start of the Emperor's Cup, though minus Brazilian midfielder Edu and Argentinian defender Fernando Moner.

Valber dribbled to the line and crossed short for 23-year-old Hiroki Hattori to score the first goal.

Osamu Maeda had a penalty saved by Chan Sau-Yin soon afterwards, but Valber dribbled past everyone, including Chan to score the second.

In the final four minutes Cheung Chi-Tak was sent off for a second booking, Masakiyo Maeszono added the third, and Eddie Gallagher netted a consolation goal with almost the final kick.

Flugels meet Tot of Thailand or Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia in the semi-final. The team are meanwhile led by coach Bunji Kimura as they set out to defend the Emperor's Cup.

Shu Kamo's departure from Flugels to the national team, plus Kunishige Kamamoto's from Gamba Osaka and Stuart Baxter's from Sanfrecce Hiroshima, means that only two of the 10 managers at the J.League's kick-off in May 1993 still hold their jobs. They are Yasutaro Matsuki at Verdy Kawasaki and Hidehiko Shimizu at Yokohama Marinos.

Pereira heads poll

THE VERDY KAWASAKI domination of the season's honours was made almost complete at the J.League awards ceremony.

Brazilian full-back Pereira was named player of the season, taking over from Kazuyoshi Miura, and no fewer than seven Verdy players were named for the season's Best XI.

The player awards are chosen by the players. Everyone knows that Verdy are one of Japan's best-supported sides, as well as the most successful, they were surprised to have so many fans in other teams.

The award for the league's cleanest side again went to Sanfrecce Hiroshima; Kazuaki Tasaka of Bellmare Hiratsuka was best new player; Yasutaro Matsuki of Verdy Kawasaki was best manager for the second year in a row; Yugoslavian Zoran Petrovic was referee of the year; German Frank Ordenewitz of JEF United Ichihara was top scorer; and special awards also were made to Gary Lineker and Zico for their contributions to Japanese football.

BEST XI

Goalkeeper: Shinkichi Kikuchi (Verdy)
Defence: Masami Ihara (Marinos), Yoshihiro Natsuka (Bellmare), Pereira (Verdy).
Midfielders: Tsuyoshi Kitazawa (Verdy), Tetsuji Hashiratani (Verdy), Bismarck (Verdy), Betinho (Bellmare), Ruy Ramos (Verdy).
Forwards: Takuya Takagi (Sanfrecce), Nobuhiro Takeda (Verdy).

Land of rising yen

RANGERS winger Pieter Huistra is the latest player heading for the J.League, in a £350,000 deal with Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

He joins fellow Dutch international Hans Gillhaus, who has been signed up by Gamba Osaka.

Yokohama Flugels have signed three players from Palmeiras in Brazil: Zinho, Sampaio and Evair, with Valber going in the opposite direction. Other recent arrivals include three members of Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning squad: right-back Jorginho has moved to Kashima Antlers from Bayern Munich; Kashiwa Reysol have signed Muller from Sao Paulo; and Cerezo Osaka are close to signing goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel.

Ex-Monaco boss Arsene Wenger has been confirmed as coach of Nagoya Grampus Eight next season.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

CONFEDERATION

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Football, the Game of the Future.

Diary

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

ACTION: In the African Nations Cup Tanzania beat Sudan 2-0, Gambia lose 2-1 at home to Ghana . . . in the European Championship, Romania beat Slovakia 3-2 . . . in the European under-21s, Portugal beat Austria 2-0 . . . Jean-Pierre Papin scores his first goal for Bayern Munich after coming on as a second-half substitute in a 2-0 win over Schalke.

SWITZERLAND: Croatia Zagreb are banned from European soccer for a season and coach Miroslav Blazevic banned for 18 months by UEFA after trouble at their Cup-winners Cup tie; Boavista of Portugal are ordered to play their next home match in European competition 300km from their Oporto ground following crowd trouble during the first leg of their UEFA Cup match against Napoli on October 18; Bilbao, Trabzonspor and Aston Villa are fined for pitch invasions; three Albanians are each banned for three matches for being sent off in the same Under-16 match against Moldova, while Robbie Fowler of England is banned for three matches for being sent off in an Under-21 match against Austria. Jiri Novotny of the Czech Republic is handed a four-match suspension for being sent off in the senior Euro Championship qualifier against Malta.

YUGOSLAVIA: Former European champions Red Star Belgrade become the first Yugoslav team to play against foreign opposition since international sanctions were relaxed when they beat Greek side Olympiakos 4-1.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

ACTION: Bruce Grobbelaar is the hero of the day for rescuing the referee from a bunch of furious Zaire players after Zimbabwe win their African Cup qualifier 2-1 in Zimbabwe with a last-minute penalty from Peter Ndlovu . . . in the European Championship, Portugal beat Austria 1-0 and Ukraine defeat Estonia 3-0 . . . Hamburg move up to fourth in Germany after a 3-0 win over 1860 Munich.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

BELGIUM: The federation says Luis Oliveira would never be selected for the national team again after refusing to play against Macedonia because he "feels a bit under the weather."

CHINA: Dalian, from northeast China, become the country's first professional champions when they beat Sichuan to finish six points clear of Guangzhou. Shanghai are third.

ENGLAND: The Football Association says that goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, the subject of sensational bribery allegations which he denies, would be charged with accepting money to influence the result of soccer matches. Grobbelaar is to be charged with conduct improper or liable to bring the game into disrepute and the "acceptance of consideration with the view to influencing the result of a match," says chief executive Graham Kelly.

GERMANY: Franz Beckenbauer adds another position to his illustrious cv as he is elected president of champions Bayern Munich. He receives an overwhelming majority of votes from the 2,900 club-members at the annual meeting. Predecessor Fritz Scherer and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge voted vice-presidents.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

ACTION: Liechtenstein lose "only" 1-0 at home to Latvia in the European qualifiers.

ENGLAND: Former England captain Gerry Francis becomes manager of Tottenham, Ray Wilkins takes over at Queens Park Rangers and ex-Scotland striker Joe Jordan is appointed for a second spell as manager of Bristol City.

JAPAN: Two new teams will join the J.League next year, bringing the total to 14. The newcomers, approved by an extraordinary board meeting, are Cerezo Osaka and Kashiwa Reysol, winners and runners-up of the Japan Football League's second division. Reysol are reported to have bought Brazilian striker Muller for an estimated £2million from Sao Paulo.

YUGOSLAVIA: Partizan Belgrade beat Scottish Cup holders Dundee United 3-0 in a friendly in Belgrade to help mark the projected reintegration of Yugoslavia into European football.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

ACTION: The biggest shock on another major night of European Championship action is Italy's 2-1 home defeat by Croatia in Palermo . . . Saudi Arabia win the Gulf Cup for the first time after defeating Kuwait 2-0 in their last group match in Abu Dhabi. Kuwait are weakened after suspending nine of their own players for going shopping in Dubai without permission . . . Sao Paulo play two matches in one day, first beating Sporting Cristal of Peru 3-1 in the Conmebol Cup and then beating Gremio 3-1 in the Brazilian championship.

FRANCE: Oumar Bel Salah, a member of Ivory Coast's national squad is sentenced on appeal to nine years in prison for nearly beating his six-year-old son to death.

ITALY: Sampdoria's Ruud Gullit denies reports that he plans to join Japanese J.League club Yokohama Flugels next season. He says: "This is something we might talk about in two or three years, not before. Why should I leave Europe now? I've still got so much to do here."

KENYA: Local officials say they fear the African confederation will seek new hosts for the 1996 African Nations Cup because work has not yet started on renovating the designated second stadium in the port of Mombasa.

SWITZERLAND: A Swiss court rejects an appeal by UEFA against a ruling that its monopolistic Champions League arrangements violate anti-cartel laws.The case had been originally brought by CWL Telesport, a Swiss-based company that has a contract with Steaua Bucharest, one of the 16 Champions League teams.

UNITED STATES: As expected, Major League Soccer president Alan Rothenburg announces that the launch of the league has been delayed a year until early 1996.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

ENGLAND: United States goalkeeper Brad Friedel loses his last application for a work permit which would have allowed him to transfer to Newcastle . . . Bruce Grobbelaar returns to England from Zimbabwe and is questioned by police investigating allegations, which he has denied, that he accepted money to fix Premier League matches.

ITALY: Arrigo Sacchi insists he has no intention of resigning as Italy coach despite the 2-1 defeat by Croatia in Palermo.

SWEDEN: Swedish officials say Tomas Brolin will be out for the rest of the season after breaking his ankle in the 2-0 victory over Hungary.

YUGOSLAVIA: Federation president Miljan Miljanic says Yugoslavia's first international since the lifting of UN and FIFA sanctions will be against Brazil, in Brazil, on December 23.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

ARGENTINA: Referee Angel Sanchez accuses Diego Maradona of having chased him into the dressing rooms and kicked the door after Deportivo Mandiyu lost 2-1 to Independiente on Tuesday. Independiente vice-president Hector Grondona says: "Maradona is a menace. Had it not been for Mandiyu's president, who acted like a gentleman, I don't know whether I would have made it from the pitch alive. He is a challenge to security in any stadium."

FRANCE: National boss Aime Jacquet admits that, after the 0-0 draw with Poland, Eric Cantona could be axed not only as skipper of France but from the team altogether.

ITALY: Roberto Baggio suggests Bayern Munich's Giovanni Trapattoni might be an effective successor to Arrigo Sacchi as Italy boss.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA rule that the registration of Polish defender Dariusz Adamczuk should revert to Dundee after Udinese fail to pay a £250,000 final instalment on a transfer fee due last March.

TEAM OF THE MONTH
OB ODENSE
For their UEFA Cup triumph over Spanish giants Real Madrid

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

ACTION: Manchester United go top for the first time in England this season thanks to a 3-0 win over Crystal Palace while previous leaders Newcastle go down 3-2 at Wimbledon . . . Bruce Grobbelaar keeps a clean sheet on his return to domestic duty in Southampton's 1-0 win over Arsenal . . . Werder Bremen narrow the gap on Borussia Dortmund in Germany as the leaders manage only a 1-1 home draw at home to Freiburg while Werder win 3-1 at Bayer Uerdingen . . . Ivan Zamorano scores two more goals to take his season's total to 11 as Real Madrid win 2-1 away to Valencia.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

ACTION: Gabon beat Zambia 2-1 in an African Nations Cup qualifier . . . Primeiro de Maio of Angola beat Bendel Insurance of Nigeria 1-0 in the first leg of the CAF Cup Final.

BRAZIL: Santos sack coach Serginho for head-butting a TV reporter in the middle of an interview. Santos director Pele says: "How can we get rid of hooligans when a soccer coach sets such an example?"

GERMANY: Bochum's Eric Wynalda is ruled out for the rest of the year after breaking a leg the previous day when fouled by Gerhard Poschner of Stuttgart.

KUWAIT: Nine internationals are suspended for three months after going shopping without permission in the United Arab Emirates on the eve of the Gulf Cup decider against Saudi Arabia.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

ENGLAND: Notts County give a trial to Finland goalkeeper Petri Jakonen, capped 22 times.

ETHIOPIA: Ethiopia pull out of the East and Central Africa Senior Challenge Cup after disbanding their national team following heavy defeats by Egypt and Uganda.

FRANCE: Bottom club Montpellier sack Gerard Gili and replace him with veteran Michel Mezy.

GERMANY: The DFB demands an explanation from Bayern Munich skipper Lothar Matthaus over critical remarks made at the weekend about Helmut Krug, who refereed their 2-2 draw with Karlsruhe . . . Dresden sack Siggi Held as coach and appoint Horst Hrubesch as replacement.

ITALY: Police are ordered to search all away fans after a weekend of violence in which two officers were seriously hurt trying to control hooligan clashes before the Brescia v Roma game. Police report 12 arrests plus the seizure of scores of weapons including axes, knives, clubs and fireworks from Roma fans . . . property worth £30,000 is stolen from Paul Gascoigne's Rome villa while he is convalescing in England.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA's appeals committee rejects an appeal by Hajduk Split against a fine of £10,000 imposed for time-wasting by their ballboys in the 2-1 win over Anderlecht in the Champions League on October 19.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

ACTION: Spanish clubs Bilbao, La Coruna and Real Madrid record a hat-trick of victories in the UEFA CUP third round first legs.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he may make a playing comeback with Boca Juniors after all next year when he has cleared his 15-month World Cup doping ban.

ENGLAND: Newcastle give a trial to 20-year-old Finnish centre-back Sam Hyypia from MyPa.

GREECE: An Athens court sentences four hooligan fans to seven months in prison for their part in crowd violence which forced the postponement of Sunday's match between Salonika teams Aris and PAOK.

ITALY: Milan president and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is called to answer corruption charges by investigating magistrates . . . Genoa dismiss

Franco Scoglio and appoint Pippo Marchioro – sacked three weeks earlier by Reggiana – as new coach.

SWITZERLAND: World champions Brazil retain top spot in the latest world rankings. Sweden are second, Italy third.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

ACTION: Champions League fifth matchday games see quarter-final qualification secured by IFK Gothenburg, Paris Saint-Germain, Benfica, Hajduk Split and Ajax Amsterdam.

FRENCH: Saint-Etienne sell former Bayern Munich striker Roland Wohlfarth home to Germany to join Bochum . . . former European champions Marseille land in more trouble after financial director Alain Laroche is cautioned by investigators in an inquiry into the club's accounts. Laroche's bail is set at £35,000. Former club president Bernard Tapie is already under investigation in the inquiry, launched in 1992, over charges of irregularities in the payment of players' transfer fees.

GERMANY: UEFA president Lennart Johansson, speaking hours before the Bayern v Paris S-G European clash, says he believes the Champions League has a bright future despite temporary difficulties over a legal challenge from a Swiss television marketing company. Johansson says: "The Champions League will continue, there is no doubt about it."

SWITZERLAND: Dutch champions Ajax are fined £14,000 by UEFA after fans set off fireworks at the Champions League game against Salzburg on November 2.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

ACTION: Roberto Baggio scores his 200th and 201st senior competitive goals as Juventus win 3-1 away to Admira in the UEFA Cup third round.

BRAZIL: More chaos looms in the national championship as Sao Paulo and Palmeiras threaten to boycott the competition if the CBF punishes them for the pitch brawl between the sides in October.

GERMANY: Franz Beckenbauer's angry comments about "stupid rules and regulations" after Bayern Munich's weekend draw against Karlsruhe are criticised by FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni who suggests Bayern's new president should pay more attention to his golf.

IVORY COAST: ASEC of Abidjan win their fifth consecutive league championship after beating Rio Sports of Anyama 5-0 with a hat-trick from Sekou Bamba.

JAPAN: Brazilian striker Alcindo Sartori, Japanese soccer's second leading scorer this season with 28 goals, refuses to renew his contract with Kashima Antlers in a pay dispute.

PORTUGAL: Russia striker Sergei Yuran is involved in yet another motoring tragedy when a car driven by Porto's forward is involved in an early-morning collision after which the driver of the other car dies.

SPAIN: John Toshack is sacked as manager of Real Sociedad after eight years in two spells with the Basque club. The club says it decided to remove Toshack last Monday, a day after the side lost 3-2 at home to Celta. Toshack was not informed until he returned on Wednesday from Wales, where he had gone because of family illness following the weekend game.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

ACTION: Zaire's Daring Club Motema Pembe and Kenya Breweries draw 2-2 in the first leg of the African Cup-winners Cup Final . . . French league leaders Nantes extended their unbeaten run to 19 matches when they beat Cannes 1-0 to move six points clear of second-placed Paris Saint-Germain . . . PSV Eindhoven celebrate the imminent arrival of new boss Dick Advocaat by beating Feyenoord 4-1 despite playing the last 70 minutes with 10 men after the expulsion of defender Jeffrey Prommayon for a foul on Gaston Taument . . . Gabriel Batistuta sets an Italian record, converting a penalty for Fiorentina against Sampdoria to score in his 11th successive league match . . . Raith Rovers win their first major trophy, beating Celtic 6-5 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the Scottish League Cup Final . . . Barcelona slump to a 1-0 home defeat against Sevilla and, with Zaragoza losing in Bilbao, Real Madrid edge to the top in Spain.

CAMEROON: Roger Milla plays yet another "last game" as Tonnerre Yaounde lose 2-1 to Olympic Involye in the Cameroon Cup final on Sunday. Milla goes out with a loser's medal and a yellow card for disputing a throw-in. He also has a goal disallowed for offside.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

SAUDI ARABIA: Gulf champions Saudi Arabia are matched with North and Central American title-holders Mexico in the first match of the Intercontinental Cup on January 6 in Riyadh. Full draw: Jan 6, Saudi Arabia v Mexico, Japan v Nigeria; Jan 8, Saudi Arabia v Denmark, Japan v Argentina; Jan 10, Denmark v Mexico, Argentina v Nigeria. Jan 13, third-place play-off and final.

FRANCE: Monaco officials launch a formal protest to the FFF after revealing that international defender Eric Di Meco suffered a broken nose in a row involving players and fans in Saturday's match against Bastia in Corsica.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he may call a players strike in protest against mass drugs tests ordered by a federal judge.

FRANCE: FIFA president Joao Havelange says the French organisers of the 1998 World Cup should reconsider Strasbourg as a venue. It had been ruled out originally after the local authority objected to the high costs of redevelopment.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

ACTION: International newcomers Eritrea beat Seychelles 1-0 in the East and Central Africa Cup . . . Israel beat Cyprus 4-3 in a friendly.

ITALY: Juventus forward Roberto Baggio is expected to make a rapid return to first team action after tests reveal a knee injury he suffered at the weekend was not as serious as feared . . . the players' union decides on a 45-minute delay in kicking off matches on December 18 in a campaign to increase the fund available to help out-of-work players and coaches.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge refutes speculation that coach Giovanni Trapattoni is to return to Italy. Rummenigge says: "Trapattoni is definitely staying as coach until June 30, 1995. Nothing is going to change that situation."

VIETNAM: Brazilian Edson Araujo Tavares is appointed national team of Vietnam as a first step towards the launch of professional soccer.

UGANDA: Champions SC Villa are suspended from next year's African Cup competitions by the Uganda FA for failing to turn out for a CAF Cup semi-final against ASEC of Ivory Coast last year.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ACTION: Spain beat Finland 2-0 in Malaga.

ENGLAND: Ian Rush marks his 600th match for Liverpool with a hat-trick as Liverpool win 3-1 away to Blackburn Rovers in the fourth round of the Coca-Cola-sponsored League Cup.

FRANCE: Marseille dismiss trainer Marc Bourrier in the wake of Tuesday's 1-0 defeat by Niort in the League Cup, a defeat which cost Marseille their only prospect of European entry next season. He is replaced by Gerard Gili, who coached Marseille from August 1988 until September 1990. Gili was dismissed only on November 21 by Montpellier.

GERMANY: National captain Lothar Matthaus is banned for one game and fined £10,000 for calling FIFA referee Hellmut Krug a cheat after Bayern Munich's 2-2 draw at Karlsruhe on November 19.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

ACTION: Velez Sarsfield beat Milan 2-0 in the World Club Cup in Tokyo.

ENGLAND: The FA announces that Arsenal's England international Paul Merson is suspended while he undertakes a voluntary programme of rehabilitation for drug and gambling addiction.

FRANCE: FIFA president Joao Havelange says he has been fully satisfied with his tour round France to see prospective venues for the 1998 World Cup finals. On the subject of Strasbourg's exclusion, Havelange says: "I have to accept it but I regret it" . . . Bastia are banned from playing at Furiani for at least one match after incidents in the 2-2 draw against Monaco when angry fans invaded the pitch.

ITALY: Juventus beat Roma 3-0 in an Italian Cup quarter-final first leg thanks to two goals from Gianluca Vialli.

PORTUGAL: Twelve players are booked and two sent off as Sporting keep their unbeaten league record to beat Lisbon rivals Benfica 1-0 thanks to a goal from Nigerian World Cup star Emmanuel Ammunike.

WALES: Wimbledon's Vinnie Jones, renowned as one of the most physical players in the Premier League, is named to make his international debut for Wales against Bulgaria.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

ECUADOR: The federation offers its national manager's job to the former Colombia and Atletico Madrid coach Francisco Maturana.

FRANCE: French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur assures FIFA president Joao Havelange that France is on course to host a successful World Cup in 1998. The draw for the qualifying groups would be on December 12, 1995, in Paris, and the draw for 32-team finals in Marseille in December 1997. The opening ceremony will be on the Champs-Elysees on June 10 or June 12, 1998 with the Final possibly on July 14, France's national holiday.

JAPAN: Verdy Kawasaki win the J.League title for the second successive year, beating Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1-0 in the second leg of the final and 2-0 on aggregate.

ROMANIA: Dorin Mateut returns to his original club Dinamo Bucharest on a six-month loan from Italy's Reggiana. Mateut had left Dinamo in 1990 to play for Zaragoza in Spain then for Brescia and Reggiana in Italy.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

ACTION: Bendel Insurance (Nigeria) beat Primiero Maio (Angola) 3-0 in the second leg of the CAF Cup Final to win 3-1 on aggregate . . . Manchester United record their 12th consecutive home league clean sheet and Eric Cantona scores the winner in a 1-0 victory over Norwich . . . Anthony Yeboah, Jay-Jay Okocha and Maurizio Gaudino refuse to play for Eintracht Frankfurt in the 2-0 win over Hamburg after a training dispute with coach Jupp Heynckes . . . in Spain, a last-minute goal by Julio Salinas earns La Coruna a 1-1 draw away to his old club, Barcelona.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

ACTION: Ivory Coast and South Africa share the inaugural Four Nations Challenge Cup at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, after both sides drew their final matches in the tournament. South Africa draw 1-1 with Cameroon while the Ivorians draw 1-1 with Ghana. Guest of honour is President Nelson Mandela . . . Zamalek are held 0-0 by Tunisia's Esperance in their home leg of the African Champions Cup Final in Cairo . . . Necaxa of Mexico beat Aurora of Guatemala 3-0 to win the CONCACAF Cup-winners Cup for the second year in a row in Miami. Real Maya of Honduras finish third after beating Lambada of Barbados 1-0 at the Orange Bowl . . . Sao Paulo's last hopes of a title this year collapse as they lose to Guarani in the quarter-finals of the Brazilian national championship . . . Universidad de Chile striker Marcelo Salas is sent off for over-celebrating after scoring the winner in the Santiago derby against Universidad Catolica . . . play is held up for nearly 15 minutes after the referee disallows and then allows a goal in a 1-1 draw between Independiente and Nacional of Medellin. Three Nacional players are sent off . . . in Greece, Polish striker Krzysztof Warzycha scores a hat-trick as leaders Panathinaikos thrash Levadiakos 5-0 . . . Kazu Miura makes history as the first Japanese to score a goal in Italy but Genoa lose 3-2 to neighbours Sampdoria . . . Gabriel Batistuta fails to score for the first time in 12 league games as Fiorentina go 2-0 up then lose 3-2 to a Baggio-less Juventus . . . in Mexico, Cameroon striker Francois Oman-Biyik scores for the 10th game in a row as America come from behind to beat UNAM 3-1 . . . Argentinian Claudio Caniggia and Brasil's Edilson Ferreira score four goals each as Benfica crush second division Marinhense 12-0 in the fourth round of the Portuguese Cup.

BELGIUM: The executive committee of Belgium's soccer union agrees to award three points instead of two for a win next season, in line with FIFA orders.

GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt tell Yeboah, Okocha and Gaudino to find new clubs after their bust-up with coach Jupp Heynckes.

ITALY: Lazio's Gascoigne enters an exclusive clinic near Rome for specialised diet treatment.

SPAIN: Real Madrid midfielder Michel is ruled out for six months after snapping right knee ligaments against Real Sociedad on Saturday.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

ACTION: Tanzania beat Eritrea 1-0 in Nairobi to qualify for the final of the East and Central Africa Challenge Cup.

ARGENTINA: Former Uruguay coach Luis Cubilla quits as coach of Racing Club after just 15 games and two-and-a-half months in charge.

ENGLAND: Wolves complete the signing of Feyenoord defender John De Wolf . . . John Lyall quits as manager of Ipswich.

ITALY: French midfielder Alain Boghossian of Napoli is probably out for the rest of the season after a serious knee injury in Sunday's league game against Torino.

SWITZERLAND: Sion striker Christophe Bonvin is recalled for the European qualifier against Turkey in Istanbul. He replaces Kubilay Turkyilmaz of Turkish champions Galatasaray, who asked Swiss coach Roy Hodgson not to consider him following threats from Turkish supporters. Squad: Pascolo, Zuberbuehler; Geiger, Henchoz, Herr, Hottiger, Thueler, Vega, Gaemperle; Bickel, Grassi, Koller, Ohrel, Sforza, Sutter; Chapuisat, Subiat, Bonvin.

GERMANY: Borussia Monchengladbach striker Heiko Herrlich receives his first call-up to the German national team for the European qualifiers against Moldova and Albania. Squad: Kopke, Reck, Klos; Berthold, Helmer, Kohler, Matthaus, Reuter, Schuster, Strunz, Weber; Basler, Eilts, Hassler, Moller, Sammer, Todt, Wagner, Ziege; Bobic, Herrlich, Kirsten, Klinsmann, Kuntz, Riedle.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

ACTION: A major UEFA Cup shock as Real Madrid pay a huge penalty for complacency and lose 2-0 at home to OB Odense, crashing out 4-3 on aggregate. More bad news for Spain are the further exits of La Coruna and Bilbao.

ARGENTINA: Racing sack Luis Cubilla after just over two months as coach.

Diary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

ACTION: The Champions League is wrapped up, with Milan recovering sufficiently from all their problems to defeat Casino Salzburg 1-0 in Vienna and join the quarter-finals line-up . . . Penarol beat Universidad de Chile 3-1 on aggregate in a Conmebol Cup semi-final after drawing 1-1 in Santiago in the second leg.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona quits as Mandiyu coach after a row with club president Roberto Cruz who went into the dressing room and criticised the players for losing a match against Newell's Old Boys.

BRAZIL: Reinaldo, Brazil's latest 18-year-old wonderboy, scores a hat-trick as Atletico Mineiro beat Corinthians 3-2 at home in a national championship semi-final first leg.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich say they are interested in signing Eintracht Frankfurt rebel Anthony Yeboah.

NIGERIA: FIFA vice-president Jack Warner says facilities for the World Youth Cup in Nigeria are below standard and it would be the eighth wonder of the world if they were ready on time.

PORTUGAL: The federation formally decides to award three points instead of two for wins in national and regional championship matches from next season.

SCOTLAND: Striker Duncan Ferguson, subject of a £4million bid from Everton to whom he is on loan from Rangers, is recalled to Scotland's squad for the European qualifier against Greece.

UNITED STATES: The USSF appoints Tom King, venue director for Pontiac at USA '94, as general manager in succession to Bill Nuttall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

ACTION: Tanzania beat Uganda 4-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in Nairobi to win the Final of the East and Central Africa Challenge Cup.

ARGENTINA: Racing say they will offer Maradona a post as first-team coach if talks with former international Roberto Perfumo fall through.

AUSTRALIA: Parliament launches an inquiry into allegations of impropriety and conflicts of interest in the transfer of soccer players and the selection of national sides.

BRAZIL: Sao Paulo's Morumbi stadium is shut by the city council until structural repairs are carried out. Corinthians are thus left without a venue for their Brazilian championship semi-final second leg against Atletico Mineiro in three days' time.

ENGLAND: Milan defender Paolo Maldini is voted World Player of the Year by *WORLD SOCCER* magazine . . . Brazil are matched against Sweden at Villa Park, Birmingham, in the draw for Euro'95 – the four-team tournament which also involves England and Japan in the run-up to the 1996 European Championship finals.

HOLLAND: Dick Advocaat, for his last match in charge, includes two new men in his squad for the European qualifier against Luxembourg – NAC Breda striker Pierre van Hooijdonk and Ajax Amsterdam midfielder Clarence Seedorf.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

ENGLAND: An arbitration panel lifts the six-point penalty and FA Cup ban imposed on Tottenham Hotspur for financial irregularities.

FRANCE: Struggling Sochaux sack coach Sylvester. He is replaced by Jacques Santini, former coach of Toulouse, Lille and Saint-Etienne.

ITALY: UEFA president Lennart Johansson follows an executive committee meeting in Rome by raising the threat of a boycott of the 1998 World Cup by European nations in a row over FIFA president Joao Havelange's reorganisation of the FIFA committees; UEFA's executive agrees to ask FIFA to consider experimenting with two referees per match; UEFA cuts Greek club PAOK Salonika's two-year suspension from European competitions to 12 months.

MALAYSIA: The AFC plans a protest to FIFA over allocation of committee places, according to general secretary Peter Velappan.

NIGERIA: The draw is made in Abuja for the finals of the World Youth Cup, to be staged in Nigeria in March. The draw: Group A (in Lagos) Nigeria, Russia, Syria, first South American qualifier. Group B (in Enugu) second African qualifier, Spain, third South American qualifier, Japan. Group C (in Kaduna) Netherlands, second South American qualifier, Honduras, Portugal. Group D (in Ibadan) Australia, Costa Rica, first African qualifier, Germany.

SPAIN: Javier Clemente drops Barcelona midfielders Jose Bakero and Josep Guardiola for the European qualifier against Belgium in Brussels. Squad: Zubizarreta, Canizares; Sergi, Abelardo, Nadal, Alkorta, Voro, Camarasa, Belsue; Donato, Hierro, Luis Enrique, Guerrero, Caminero; Goikoetxea, Salinas, Amavisca, Pizzi.

SWITZERLAND: Brazil's World Cup goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel is fined £10,000 by FIFA for contravening advertising rules by donning a special pair of gloves to receive the trophy in Pasadena.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

GERMANY: Wynton Rufer plays his last game for Werder Bremen in a 0-0 draw with Bayern Munich, after signing a two-year contract to play for JEF United in Japan from January 1 . . . Borussia Dortmund are leaders as the season shuts down for the winter break after beating Hamburg 4-0 with a hat-trick from skipper Michael Zorc . . . Hamburg's Sergio Zarate flies home to Argentina amid criticism for poor form, lack of commitment and tax debts. Hamburg say an offer is expected from Necaxa of Mexico.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

ACTION: Zaire's Daring Club Motema Pembe win 3-0 away to Kenya Breweries to win the African Cup-winners Cup in Nairobi . . . two goals from Alessandro Del Piero lift Juventus to a 4-3 win away to Lazio and ahead of Parma at the top of Serie A . . . Gheorghe Hagi scores a remarkable goal from almost on the halfway line in Barcelona's 4-2 win away to Celta in Spain.

BELGIUM: Philippe Albert, scorer of two goals in Newcastle's victory over Leicester the previous day, is included in Belgium's 16-man squad for the European qualifier against Spain. Squad: Preud'homme, Bodart; Albert, Crasson, Genaux, Medved, Smidts; Bettagno, Boffin, Degryse, Staelens, Van der Elst, Walem; De Bilde, Severeyns, Verheyen.

EGYPT: Nigerian Yusif Omar, 22, from the Olympic of Alexandria club, is deported after being found to be infected by the AIDS virus.

ENGLAND: Arsenal manager George Graham denies newspaper allegations that he received a £285,000 gift in the transfer purchase of Denmark's John Jensen from Brondby.

FRANCE: Former TV announcer Pierre Cangioni succeeds Bernard Tapie as president of former European champions Marseille. Tapie, banned after the match-fixing scandal, says he will give up his shares in the club by next week at the latest.

MALAYSIA: AFC president Sultan Ahmad Shah calls for the creation of an Interpol-style agency to stamp out match-fixing in South-east Asia. He says: "This sick phenonmenon is threatening the sport that we love and radical measures are the only thing that will safeguard the game." He says local syndicates may take up to $500 million a year and has undermined soccer in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

ARGENTINA: Cesar Menotti resigns as coach of struggling Boca Juniors, hours after a 3-0 defeat at home to old rivals River Plate.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich sell Brazilian World Cup-winning defender Jorginho to Japanese club Kashima Antlers for £1.4million.

ITALY: Former Italy goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi is released by Genoa after criticising president Aldo Spinelli as the man really responsiible for last week's s 3-2 defeat by Sampdoria.

PORTUGAL: Defender Fernando Couto returns to the national squad for the European qualifier against Liechtenstein in Lisbon after a three-game ban. Squad: Vitor Baia, Adelino Neno; Joao Pinto, Paulinho Santos, Oceano, Helder, Fernando Couto; Rui Barros, Figo, Tavares, Vitor Paneira, Sousa, Folha; Paulo Alves, Secretario, Domingos, Joao Vieira Pinto, Rui Costa.

UNITED STATES: Major League Soccer acquires San Francisco Bay Blackhawks in a stock exchange deal with their founder-owner Daniel Van Voorhis. He becomes a limited partner of the new US professional league in exchange for the sale of his stock. Blackhawks become the eighth team in the league, which plans to begin playing in the 1996 season.

YUGOSLAVIA: Dejan Savicevic of Milan, Vladimir Jugovic and Sinisa Mihajlovic of Sampdoria are included in the Yugoslav squad for forthcoming friendlies against Brazil and Argentina.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

ACTION: France end more than 300 minutes without a goal when they win 2-0 away to Azerbaijan in the European Championship.

BRAZIL: Sebastiao Lazaroni quits as coach to Vasco da Gama after five months in which he has frequently angered fans with his team selections and struggled to control in-fighting among the players . . . new national coach Mario Zagalo names nine uncapped players against Yugoslavia for their first international since winning the World Cup. Squad: Danrlei (Gremio), Ronaldo (Corinthians); Jorginho, Bruno Carvalho, Branco, Roberto Carlos, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Cleber, Ricardo Rocha; Dunga, Cesar Sampaio, Ze Elias, Flavio Conceicao, Souza, Darci, Zinho, Viola, Ronaldo, Savio, Marques Batista, Marcelinho Pereira.

ENGLAND: Everton complete the £4million signing of Rangers' Scotland striker Duncan Ferguson . . . the FA confirm "only" the £1.5million fine on Tottenham for financial irregularities.

MOLDOVA: The European under-21 tie between Moldova and Germany is postponed after the three Slovak match officials fail to arrive until 75 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA names Vienna and Paris as likely venues for the finals of the Champions Cup and the Cup-winners Cup.

TURKEY: German coach Holger Osieck is dismissed by Fenerbahce who report their club close to an agreement with Englishman Gordon Milne, formerly with Besiktas and then Grampus Eight in Japan.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

ACTION: Mixu Paatelainen is the individual hero on another European Championship day, scoring all Finland's four goals against San Marino.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona, who quit as coach of struggling Mandiyu last week, agrees to take over as coach at Racing Club in succession to Luis Cubilla.

BRAZIL: Palmeiras striker Edmundo is given a second reprieve by the Supreme Tribunal of the Brazilian confederation, clearing him to play for his club against Corinthians in the final of the national championship . . . Mauro Ribeiro de Paiva, 21, vice-president of the Young Fans of Botafogo, is sentenced to 26 years in prison for shooting dead a member of a Flamengo group during a brawl between fan clubs at a dance club in Rio de Janeiro last January.

ITALY: Alexi Lalas receives his first Italian suspension. The disciplinary commission bans him for one match after he was booked for foul play in Sunday's league game against Cagliari . . . Lazio deny reports that England midfielder Paul Gascoigne had suffered a setback in his recovery from a broken leg . . . veteran goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi, after being sacked by Genoa, says he is heading for Japan as a goalkeeping coach.

MALAYSIA: Sultan Ahmad Shah, president of the Asian Confederation, accuses Joao Havelange of undermining the credibility of AFC through his controversial selection of FIFA committee members. He obtains AFC executive agreement to call a meeting of the five confederation presidents during the Intercontinental Championships in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to confront Havelange.

SWITZERLAND: Draw for the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup: Eintracht Frankfurt v Juventus, Lazio v Borussia Dortmund, Leverkusen v Nantes, Parma v OB (ties on February 28 and March 14). Cup-winners Cup draw: Feyenoord v Zaragoza, Sampdoria v FC Porto, Arsenal v Auxerre, Brugge v Chelsea (ties on March 2 and 16).

UNITED STATES: MLS president Alan Rothenberg says the new league will receive a promotional boost from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

ARGENTINA: River Plate win the Apertura championship without kicking a ball when San Lorenzo, the only team with any chance of catching them, lose 2-0 away to Newell's Old Boys. San Lorenzo, previously unbeaten, had needed a big win to have any hopes of catching River Plate, who celebrated their 24th major domestic title. Defeat leaves San Lorenzo four points behind River Plate with only one match to play.

BRAZIL: A blunder by Brazil World Cup full-back Branco costs Corinthians a crucial goal as they fall 3-1 to Palmeiras in the first leg of the national championship final.

FRANCE: Gerard Gili, appointed as Marseille coach 10 days ago, walks out after new president Pierre Cangioni tells him the club cannot afford to employ him on a contract basis. Henri Stambouli takes over as caretaker for the following day's French Cup-tie against Ales. Cangioni now asks Marc Bourrier to continue as trainer – even though Gili was brought in to replace him.

ITALY: Parma beat Fiorentina 2-1 and cruise into the last four of the Italian Cup 4-1 on aggregate thanks to goals from Gianfranco Zola and Marco Branca.

JAPAN: Former Koln midfielder Frank Ordenewitz quits JEF United because his family are homesick.

MALAYSIA: Saudi Arabian forward Said Owairan, who scored a memorable goal in against Belgium in the World Cup, is named Asian Footballer of the Year by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). Other awards include Asian Coach of the Year awarded to Chanvit Polchivin of Thai Farmers, the first club from Southeast Asia to win the Asian Club Championships last year in Bangkok. South Korea's Hwang Sunhong is named Asia's Leading Goalscorer and Hong Myung-bo is selected as Asia's Defender of the Year. Hwang's award recognises his eight-goal haul against Nepal in the Asian Games last October. He added two more against Japan and one against Oman, to finish the tournament with 11 goals. Hong's nomination recognised him as "one of the finest all-round players in Asia who has the skill to play a variety of roles". Bahrain's 38-year-old Hamoud Sultan Madkhoor is named Asian Goalkeeper of the Year.

PORTUGAL: Midfielder Paulo Sousa is ruled out Portugal's team to play Liechtenstein in a European championship qualifier on Sunday because of a leg injury.

TURKEY: Konyaspor plan to fly to Mecca to show their gratitude to Allah if they achieve promotion to the top division at the end of the season, according to president Hamdi Ucarok.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

ACTION: Belgium draw 3-3 with Spain in the European under-21s.
FRANCE: Bernard Tapie, apparently on the verge of business bankruptcy, says he has sold all his shares in former European champions Marseille.
GERMANY: Franz Beckenbauer urges UEFA to end "these stupid games" which match Europe's major nations with the minnows and says smaller countries should play separate qualifiers in international competitions. He speaks out on the eve of Germany's European qualifier against Albania.
MALAYSIA: Malaysian police arrest and detain two players from Selangor state in connection with match-fixing inquiries. Up to 10 players from Penang and Singapore teams have been arrested since the scandal in Malaysia's professional league was exposed in August when Singapore's Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau arrested Singapore player Michael Vana and referee T Rajamanickam. The latest arrests come just before the weekend's Malaysia Cup Final between Singapore and Pahang.
NIGERIA: Yusuf Omar, the 22-year-old Nigerian player sent home from Egypt for allegedly being infected with the AIDS virus, denies that he has the disease on arriving in the northern Nigerian city of Kano, his home town.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

ACTION: In the European qualifiers, Belgium crash 4-1 at home to Spain while Macedonia beat Cyprus 3-0 in Skopje . . . Scotland beat Greece 2-1 in the European under-21s while Macedonia beat Cyprus again, this time 1-0 . . . Esperance Sportif (Tunisia) beat Zamalek (Egypt) 3-1 in the second leg of the African Champion Clubs' Cup final to win 3-1 on aggregate.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

ACTION: In the European Championship, Germany beat Albania only 2-1, Greece defeat Scotland 1-0 in a match scarred with penalty disputes and Portugal run up a record eight against Liechtenstein . . . Palmeiras win the Brazilian championship for the second consecutive year in a bad-tempered clash with Corinthians during which three players (including World Cup winners Branco and Zinho) are sent off. The second leg ends in a 1-1 draw with Palmeiras winning 4-2 on aggregate . . . Atletico Nacional win the Colombian championship thanks to a 75th-minute goal by substitute Juan Pablo Angel which proves the match-winner against local rivals Independiente Medellin. Nacional hold on despite having been reduced to 10 men with the sending-off of Nixon Perea. Atletico Nacional, Millonarios and America all finish level on seven points in the final stage of the tournament but Atletico take the title on bonus points from previous stages . . . Parma regain the Italian league leadership from Juventus thanks to a 2-1 win away to Bari. Juventus are held 1-1 at home by Genoa.
EGYPT: Emmanuel Amunike is voted 1994 African Player of the Year by the Confederation of African Football (CAF). Its technical and press committee award Amunike 48 points, with countryman Rashidi Yekini and Liberia's George Weah joint second on 44. Nigerians dominate the CAF list with Finidi George and Daniel Amokachi fourth and fifth respectively . . . the draw for the 1995 African club competitions are carried out at CAF HQ in Cairo.
BELGIUM: National captain Franky Van der Elst announces his retirement from international soccer in the wake of the 4-1 thrashing by Spain. He says: "I had already announced I would quit if things went wrong against Macedonia and Spain. Now it's now virtually impossible for us to qualify so it's time to give other players a chance."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

FRANCE: Hristo Stoichkov is proclaimed European Footballer of the Year by the Paris magazine *France Football*. Second is Roberto Baggio, third Paolo Maldini.
GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt's World Cup midfielder Maurizio Gaudino, detained by police a week earlier for questioning in a fraud case, joins Manchester City on loan.
ENGLAND: Premier League chief Rick Parry promises to restore the game's tarnished integrity and hints at severe punishments for anyone found guilty of transfer irregularities.
GREECE: Frank Klopas, the Greek-American World Cup player returns to Greece with Apollon Athens.
MALAYSIA: Police tackling the match-fixing scandal are reported to have arrested 22 players, former players, officials and coaches.
SWITZERLAND: Brazil top FIFA's year-end rankings with Spain moving up from fifth to second and Sweden third.
ZIMBABWE: Reinhard Fabisch is reinstated as national coach after completing a 12-month ban for insulting a referee. Fabisch takes over immediately from caretaker and fellow German Rudi Gutendorf.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

BRAZIL: Palmeiras sell Zinho, Sampaio and Evair to Japan's Yokohama Flugels. Yokohama's Brazilian midfielder Valber, formerly with Corinthians, returns home to Palmeiras.
COLOMBIA: New national coach Hernan Dario Gomez includes only six members of the World Cup squad among 19 named for a four-team tournament in Hong Kong between January 31 and February 3. Colombia will also play Australia in Melbourne in two friendlies on February 8 and 11. Squad: Cordoba, Mondragon; Dinas, Bermudez, Cabrera, Santa, Fernandez, Botero; Lozano, Mosquera, Betancur, Quinones, Pacheco, Pareja, Alvarez; Aristizabal, Comas, J J Gomez, Usuriaga.
ENGLAND: England resolve new year fixture uncertainty by agreeing to play the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on February 15, Terry Venables's first away game as England coach, then Uruguay at Wembley on March 29.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

ACTION: A victory for Arrigo Sacchi as Italy beat Turkey 3-1 in Pescara in a friendly . . . Argentina beat Romania 1-0 in a World Cup rematch . . . Penarol beat Sao Paulo 3-0 in the second leg of the Conmebol Cup but Sao Paulo win 6-4 on aggregate.
AUSTRALIA: National coach Eddie Thomson insists he is confident of being exonerated by an investigation into allegations of corruption. He says: "I have not taken money or broken my contract and I have never been involved in the transfer deals that happens between clubs."
BRAZIL: Pele is appointed Sports Minister in Brazil's new government by President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso.
ENGLAND: Premier League chief Rick Parry says he may propose that FIFA and UEFA help set up a permanent corruption inquiry unit.
ITALY: Frenchman Marcel Desailly is sent off as Milan are held 0-0 away to Torino.
MALAYSIA: Malaysia consider withdrawing from a January tournament in Bangladesh because of the inquiry into alleged match-fixing which has just led to the further arrests of a bookmaker and two more players.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

ENGLAND: Peter Schmeichel, still recovering from back trouble, is withdrawn by Manchester United from Denmark's squad for the Intercontinental Cup in Saudi Arabia . . . Romanian World Cup forward Ilie Dumitrescu is transfer-listed by Tottenham at his own request after losing his first-team place.
GERMANY: Lothar Matthaus says quarrels within the squad prevented Germany winning the World Cup in the US and defends the managerial style and decisions of Berti Vogts.
MALAYSIA: Police investigating match-fixing arrest three more players including Khairul Azman Mohamad, the nation's top goalkeeper, and former international Mubin Mokhtar.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

ACTION: Yugoslavia lose their opening comeback match by 2-0 to Brazil in Porto Alegre.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona signs to coach Racing. The deal is formally completed live on TV. He is reported to be on £750,000-a-year.
COLOMBIA: Carlos Valderrama transfers to Newells Old Boys.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

ACTION: Argentina beat Yugoslavia 1-0 in an international friendly in Buenos Aires with another decisive goal from Rambert.
SPAIN: Spain striker Julio Salinas of La Coruna is told he may be out for at least a month after injuring his right calf in a friendly between a Basque selection and Russia.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

GREECE: Olympiakos sell Nigerian World Cup striker Rashid Yekini to Gijon of Spain for 350,000. Yekini had not played for Olympiakos since October.
ITALY: Napoli ask UEFA to examine whether Eintracht Frankfurt used a fourth foreign player in their third round UEFA Cup tie which Eintracht won 2-0 on aggregate. Napoli criticise Eintracht's use of Serb Slobodan Komljenovic in the first leg on November 24 as an assimilated player because he had since played for Yugoslavia's national team . . . Antonio Giraudo, managing director of Juventus, says they want to keep Roberto Baggio but would not break the bank to do so if a Japanese club offered the rumoured $30 million deal . . . Milan's Marco Van Basten has further checks on the injured ankle which has kept him out of action for virtually two years but is told he must wait another month before a return to full training can be scheduled.
MEXICO: The Mexican federation joins Japan and South Korea in bidding for the 2002 World Cup finals. The three candidates have until February 28 to confirm their applications. FIFA makes its choice in June 1996.
PARAGUAY: The South American confederation confirms the 1995 Libertadores Cup groups. (*See results, page 56*).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

ITALY: Roberto Baggio says that talks with Juventus on a contract extension have been postponed for a week . . . Lazio president Dino Zoff says he believes Paul Gascoigne can finally prove himself in Italian soccer in 1995. Zoff adds: "We're waiting for him, basically he's our Baggio."

Diary

RUSSIA: Champions Spartak Moscow sign Omari Tetradze from Dynamo Moscow, striker Valery Velichko from Dynamo Minsk of Belorus, Torpedo Moscow defender Andrei Afanasyev and goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatulin from KamAZ Naberezhnye Chelny. They will fill gaps left by the transfers abroad of Vladimir Beschastnykh, Igor Lediakhov and Valeri Karpin.
CHILE: The federation promises to investigate match-fixing allegations made by businessman Orlando Saenz.
PORTUGAL: Belgian goalkeeper Guy Hubart earns Estrela Amadora a 1-1 draw against visiting Chaves when he goes upfield to head a late equaliser from a corner.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

ACTION: An international all-star team beat Milan 3-2 in a friendly which raises £20,000 for UNICEF. The all-stars include Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, American Tab Ramos and two-goal Greek striker Nikos Machlas.
RUSSIA: National coach Oleg Romantsev says he has no intention of recalling World Cup record marksman Oleg Salenko to the European Championship squad.
ENGLAND: Fulham midfield player Tony Finningan is excused the bail condition of reporting to police because of his club's trip to Hartlepool. Finningan is facing a charge of possessing heroin with intent to supply.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

AUSTRIA: Former international Bruno Pezzey dies aged 39 of heart failure.
MALAYSIA: Police say footballers involved in the Malaysian match-fixing scandal may receive supervised counselling – a proposal welcomed by MFA deputy president Abdullah Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

BRAZIL: Barcelona striker Romario suffers a cut above the eye which needs five stitches after he is hit by a flying beer can during a New Year beach party in Rio.
GUINEA-BISSAU: The federation withdraws from the African Nations qualifying tournament.

OBITUARIES

JAMES BROWN . . . the last surviving member of the United States team in the first World Cup, has died at the age of 85. Born in Scotland, Brown moved to New Jersey in his teens and appeared at outside-right in all of his adopted country's three games during the 1930 World Cup in Uruguay, scoring in the 6-2 defeat by Argentina. He later spent 18 months with Manchester United and was briefly with Brentford and Tottenham. One of his brothers, John Bell Brown, won one cap as Scotland goalkeeper in 1938 and another, Thomas, was an Ipswich keeper for many years. James Brown is survived by his widow – they had been married for 65 years – daughter and son, who won one cap for the Unites States, in 1957.
BRUNO PEZZEY . . . one of Austria's outstanding players of latter years, has died aged 39 after collapsing during a 'fun' ice hockey match in Innsbruck on New Year's Eve. Pezzey played midfielder originally but was best known as a graceful, attacking sweeper – a sort of Austrian Beckenbauer. Pezzey played 84 times for Austria and was a key figure in their World Cup campaigns of 1978 and 1982. He retired in 1990 after a club career with SSW Innsbruck (twice Austrian champions, twice cup-winners), Eintracht Frankfurt (once UEFA Cup-winner, once German cup-winner) and Werder Bremen. He was selected three times for World XI selections and four times for Europe representative teams.

GLOBAL TRANSFERS

(Loan moves in italics)

Andrei **AFANASYEV**	D	Moscow Torpedo	Moscow Spartak
Ian **CULVERHOUSE**	D	Norwich City	Swindon Town
John **DE WOLF**	D	Feyenoord	Wolves
*Ilie **DUMITRESCU***	*M*	*Tottenham*	*Sevilla*
Duncan **FERGUSON**	F	Rangers	Everton
EVAIR	F	Palmeiras	Yokohama Flugels
Wayne **FOSTER**	F	Hearts	Partick Thistle
*Maurizio **GAUDINO***	*M*	*Eintracht Frankfurt*	*Manchester City*
Gary **GILLESPIE**	D	Celtic	Coventry City
Hans **GILLHAUS**	F	Vitesse Arnhem	Gamba Osaka
Don **GOODMAN**	F	Sunderland	Wolves
Steve **GUPPY**	F	Newcastle	Port Vale
David **HAGAN**	F	Rangers	Hearts
*Michael **HUGHES***	*F*	*Strasbourg*	*West Ham*
Pieter **HUISTRA**	F	Rangers	Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Willie **JAMIESON**	D	Partick Thistle	Hearts
JORGINHO	D	Bayern Munich	Kashima Antlers
Frank **KLOPAS**	F	USSF	Apollon (Athens)
Martin **KUHL**	D	Derby County	Bristol City
Dragoje **LEKOVIC**	G	Buducnost Podgorica	Kilmarnock
Mike **MARSH**	M	West Ham	Coventry City
*Dorin **MATEUT***	*M*	*Reggiana*	*Dinamo Bucharest*
Tony **MEOLA**	G	New York Jets	Buffalo Blizzard
MULLER	F	Sao Paulo	Kashiwa Reysol
Ruslan **NIGMATULIN***	G	KamAZ Chelny	Moscow Spartak
Ricky **OTTO**	F	Southend Utd	Birmingham City
*Marc **RIEPER***	*D*	*Brondby*	*West Ham*
SAMPAIO	M	Palmeiras	Yokohama Flugels
Keith **SCOTT**	F	Swindon Town	Stoke City
Igor **SIMUTENKOV**	F	Moscow Spartak	Reggiana
Claudio **TAFFAREL***	G	Reggiana	Cerezo Osaka
Ian **TAYLOR**	M	Sheffield Wednesday	Aston Villa
Omari **TETRADZE**	D	Moscow Dynamo	Moscow Spartak
VALBER	M	Yokohama Flugels	Palmeiras
Valery **VELICHKO**	F	Minsk Dynamo	Moscow Spartak
Devon **WHITE**	F	QPR	Notts County
Guy **WHITTINGHAM**	F	Aston Villa	Sheffield Wednesday
Rashidi **YEKINI**	F	Olympiakos	Sporting Gijon
ZINHO	M	Palmeiras	Yokohama Flugels

** = subject to confirmation*

X-WORD

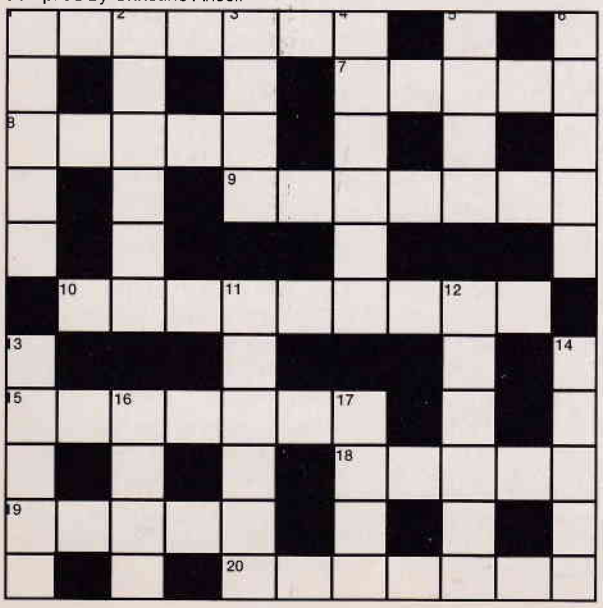
LAST MONTH'S WINNERS:
Mr G.S. James, Bristol. Chris Rae, Manchester. Simon Melville, Bournemouth. Brian Nauta, London. Mr H. McColgan, Ayr.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION
Across: 1 Kawasaki, 7 Olsen, 8 Kruse, 9 Gijon, 10 Mill, 13 Hagi, 14 Derry, 17 Viola, 18 Costa, 19 Pagliuca.
Down: 1 Krol, 2 Washington, 3 Santos, 4 Kuka, 5 Riedle, 6 Dumitrescu, 11 Chavez, 12 Vencel, 15 Lama, 16 Baia.

Compiled by Christine Ansell

WIN. . . an exclusive WORLD SOCCER sweatshirt

The first five correct entries will each win a WORLD SOCCER sweatshirt. Send completed entries, by FEBRUARY 1 to: WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD (FEBRUARY) King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS



ACROSS
1 Manager who coached both Denmark and Turkey (7)
7 Young American midfielder recruited to Leverkusen (5)
8 Werder Bremen's Egyptian defender previously with Neuchatal (5)
9 Brazil's World Cup coach, 1982 and 1986 (7)
10 Ex-FC Twente forward who joined the PSV squad in '94 (9)
15 Steaua and Romania right winger later at Fiorentina and Oviedo (7)
18 Zaragoza's midfield signing from Sporting Gijon (5)
19 French club relegated from last season's Second Division (5)
20 Torino's former Marseille and France defender (7)

DOWN
1 City which stated the first European Champions Cup final (5)
2 Lyon 'keeper formerly at Marseille (6)
3 Belgium's former national coach most successful in '86 (4)
4 Former Austrian striker coaching FC Tirol (6)
5 Finland's 1992 Cup winners from the Savinierni Stadium (4)
6 US Central defender in the Padova squad (5)
11 Elijah, star Roan United and Zambia defender (6)
12 Veteran custodian of Bolivar and Bolivia (6)
13 Tallinn's Estonian League champions, 1993-94 (5)
14 80-cap Independiente defender in Colombia's '94 World Cup side (5)
16 Coach who briefly succeeded Jair Pereira at Atletico in 1993 (4)
17 Cameroon defender added to the Metz playing staff in '94 (4)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

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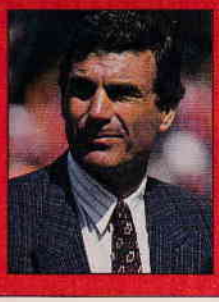
POSTCODE _____



BROOKING talkback

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters . . .

THIS is your chance to join the debates on soccer's big issues. Send you views to Trevor Brooking, the TV analyst and former England and West Ham player, and he will reply to a selection each month.

● Write to Trevor Brooking c/o *WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. The comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessarily reflect *WORLD SOCCER*'s views. He will only answer those letters published.

NOT ENOUGH FOREIGNERS!

TREVOR – In response to Keir Radnedge's point (*WORLD SOCCER*, December), England would not have improved their chances of World Cup qualification had the leagues been stripped of their United Kingdom 'foreigners'. Without them, Route One may have dominated to the point of international extinction or at best produced a national side of gallant losers in the mould of Norway. One wonders, however, what would have happened in the other 'home nations'.

The 'foreigners' – British or not – have enhanced the English leagues for generations and to some extent given the other home countries a large local professional league in which their players could develop. Reducing their influence in the English game will not improve our international prospects, and may damage those of countries used to scouring England for men with a flexible ancestry.
T RIPLEY, London NW3

THE ENGLISH leagues have undoubtedly benefited from the inclusion of all foreigners. Without them, the Route One brigade would have multiplied in even greater numbers. Of course the major factor in this debate is that players will always be attracted by money. The main players under threat appear to be those 'foreigners' from the Home Countries. At present, this rule only affects European competitions, but the FA would cause an upheaval if they decided to apply it in our domestic league. Certainly, Manchester United's huge disappointment over their second consecutive early exit from the European Cup has emphasised the dilemma.

TOO MANY FOREIGNERS!

TREVOR – I would like to see gradual restrictions imposed on foreign players, including the Welsh, Scottish and Irish (both Northern and Southern), which would end with only three being allowed to be fielded by the manager for all games. I would also like to see the complete banning of foreigners in the rest of the league.

Foreigners in our leagues are at the root of England's current football depression. For the past two seasons, Italian clubs have only narrowly missed pulling off all three of the UEFA trophies, while their national team was unfairly ruled out of a World Cup victory. England failed to qualify for the World Cup, and won only one UEFA trophy, with Arsenal's skill-less performance against Parma.

Come on England, sort it out!
JOSEPH SMITH, Ealing, London

IF A RULE is introduced for 'home foreigners' don't forget it would be possible to expand the number of players to five, because the 'assimilated players' rule would apply as well. I can't accept your argument about other European foreigners: surely you have destroyed your own case by giving Italy as an example. They have attracted many top players, yet have still enjoyed the success you mention.

DROP IN THE OCEANIA

TREVOR – I was appalled at the result of the allocation of the eight new places in the 1998 World Cup – because of the injustice to Oceania. How are the nations in this group supposed to lift themselves with FIFA continuing to treat them as second-class citizens? Surely with a definite place in the World Cup to aim for, the nations in this group would have an incentive to improve, and emerge on the world scene.
GAVIN LONERGAN, Belfast, N Ireland

WITH so many emerging nations the arguments over allocations were bound to be forceful. In the end the decisions have been made primarily on results achieved, and if the required standards are to be maintained for the final stages of the World Cup, then I wouldn't disagree with that philosophy. It may be frustrating for Australians and others Down Under to have to win the Oceania title and then a play-off with an Asian country to qualify for the World Cup finals, but it is important that FIFA maintains overall standards.

RULE PLAY

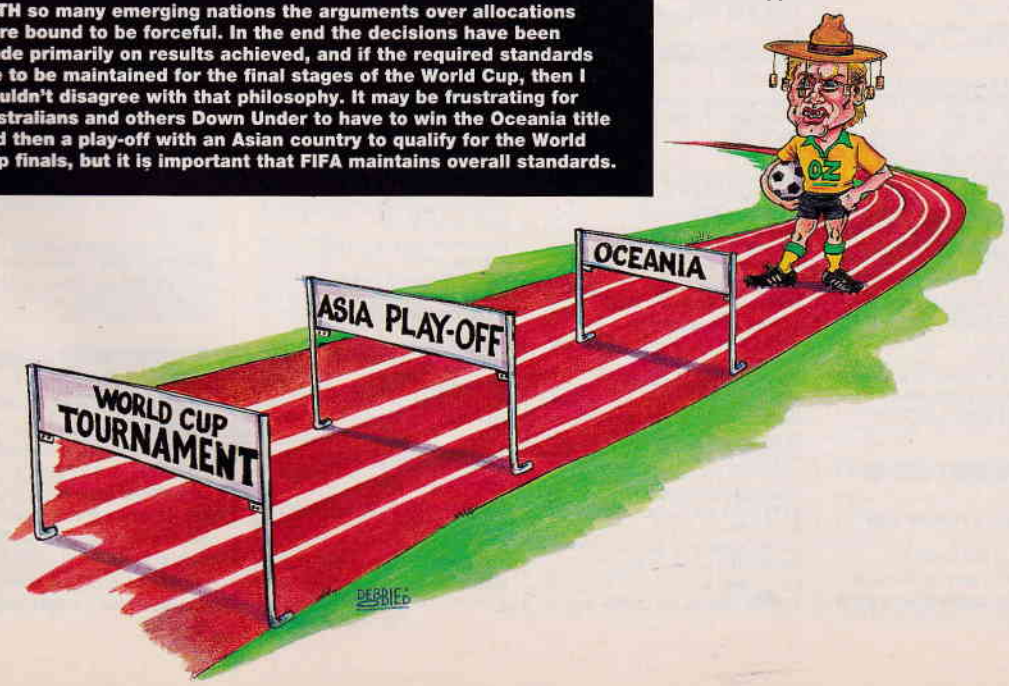
TREVOR – Football has been the world's primary sport for over 100 years with the same rules. However, since the 1990 World Cup a great number of significant rule changes have taken place and new ideas are frequently raised. Why can we not enjoy the game as it always has been instead of becoming addicted to changes which only result in confusion among referees, players, managers and fans?
PHILIP JOHNSON, Aberdeen, Scotland

I UNDERSTAND your concern, but a majority of the changes have been for the better. The back pass rule was greeted with great pessimism, but has been endorsed by the large majority. The main problem now is to install a level of consistency in referees. One change currently being tried in certain junior leagues is the ludicrous kick-i. I hope this foolish suggestion is terminated as quickly as possible.

2-POINT PLAN

TREVOR – After the dismal performances of British clubs in Europe and the national teams in qualifying games, there needs to be a major restructure. I suggest:
1. Reduce the number of games by having four divisions of 18 teams and scrapping all cups except the FA Cup.
2. Prohibit clubs from changing managers during the season.
JOHN HART, Solihull, West Midlands

YOU wouldn't fancy a job running football would you? Your suggestions are all extremely sensible, and I support them.



HELP!

If you cannot find the answer to a specific soccer problem, write to HELP! at *WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

WE WILL ANSWER AS MANY AS WE CAN. BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT DEAL WITH INQUIRIES OVER THE PHONE.

Q Could you please put me in touch with a good Dutch football magazine?
DAVID NORRIS
Rotherham, South Yorkshire
A Voetbal International, Postbus 1259, 1000 Amsterdam, Holland.

Q Where can I obtain a replice AEK Athens shirt?
PHILIP GANNON
Davyhulme, Manchester
A Write direct to AEK at Tritis Septemvriou 144, 11251 Athens.

Q Is there any connection between the 1980s clubs Waterschei and Winterslag and the current RC Genk? The Finnish Oulun Palloseura and OTP Oulu? CSU Galatai and Otelul (Romania)?
DAVID MAIDEN
Paisley, Scotland
A No, no, and no again!

Q I am keen on coaching and have been told there is a Brian Clough coaching video available. I wrote to him but did not get a reply. Can you confirm if such a video exists?
G. JEPSON
28 Greys Drive, Groby, Leicestershire
A Sorry, we do not know of one. Can anybody help?

Q How many games did Dixie Dean play for Everton in the season when he scored 60 goals?
PAUL A. MULDER
Hamburg, Germany
A He scored that amazing total in only 39 matches, in 1928-28.

RESULTS

Sheringham hat-trick sinks Newcastle . . . Benfica score 12 in Cup tie .

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 3 (Klausz 39, 84, Panis 49)
FC TIROL 1 (Janeschitz 89). **Att:** 3,000.

SALZBURG 2 (Hutter , Hiden 54)
VfB MODLING 0. **Att:** 12,000.

FC LINZ 3 (Stumpf 49, Vukovic og 72, Waldhor 82)
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Westerhaler 10). **Att:** 5,000.

RAPID WIEN 1 (Kuhbauer 9)
LINZER ASK 2 (Sabitzer 6, Stromberger 19). **Att:** 10,000.

STURM GRAZ 1 (Friesenbichler 88)
AUSTRIA WIEN 4 (Sekerlioglu 23, Prosenik 32, Mjelde 60, 82). **Att:** 5,000.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	D	A	Pts
Austria Wien	18	8	7	3	30	16	23
Salzburg	18	6	10	2	24	15	22
FC Tirol	18	8	5	5	32	21	21
Rapid Wien	18	8	5	5	29	27	21
Linz ASK	18	6	7	5	22	18	19
Vorwarts Steyr	18	6	6	6	27	25	18
Sturm Graz	18	6	5	7	22	28	17
Linz	18	5	7	6	23	32	17
Admira Wacker	18	5	5	8	26	34	15
VfB Modling	18	2	3	13	18	36	7

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

BEVEREN 0
ST TRIUDEN 0. **Att:** 5,000.

LIERSE 2 (Peeters 16, Lehmann 84)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 8,000.

LOMMEL 3 (Cannaerts 39, Van Geneugden 73, Hendrikx 85)
OOSTENDE 1 (Maes 47). **Att:** 7,000.

FC LIEGE 0
CERCLE BRUGES 0. **Att:** 3,000.

ENDRACHT AALST 1 (Van Wambeke 31)
STANDARD 3 (Goossens 45, Vidmar pen 75, 90). **Att:** 10,000.

ANDERLECHT 4 (Preko 39, 61, Emmers 40, Bosman 57)
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 15,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Vermant 13, 50, Verheyen 85)
ANTWERP 2 (Zohar pen 70, Severeyns 86). **Att:** 11,000.

EKEREN 4 (Pierre 12, 49, Hofmans 36, Verstraeten 90)
GENT 1 (Barka 5). **Att:** 4,000.

SERAING 3 (Isaias 35, Wamberto 60, 83)
MECHELEN 1 (Asselman 63). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

WEEKEND

STANDARD 1 (Bettagno 42)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Walem 71). **Att:** 25,000.

ANTWERP 3 (Kiekens 35, Zohar 40, Broeckaert 73)
FC LIEGE 0. **Att:** 3,500.

CHARLEROI 0
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 7,000.

GENT 0
LOMMEL 2 (Cannaerts 23, 28). **Att:** 5,300.

MECHELEN 1 (Asselman 7)
CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Eykelkamp 54, 69). **Att:** 13,200.

RWDM 1 (Williams 61)
ENDRACHT AALST 2 (Van Ankeren 19, 67). **Att:** 6,000.

ST TRUIDEN 1 (Dierickx 14)
SERAING 1 (Lawaree 35). **Att:** 11,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 1 (De Buyser 14)
EKEREN 2 (Pierre 21, 48). **Att:** 3,000.

OOSTENDE 0
LIERSE 3 (Lehmann 6, Huysmans 24, 28). **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WEEKEND

ENDRACHT AALST 7 (De Bilde 10, 60, Krncevic 44, Van Ekeren 57, 74, Meyssen 61, Vanderhaeghe 88)
OOSTENDE 1 (Van Veirdeghem pen 85). **Att:** 8,000.

ANDERLECHT 2 (Preko 17, Walem 62)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 20,500.

ANTWERP 2 (Severeyns 17, Zohar 50)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 7,000.

BEVEREN 2 (Goots 36,Thoelen 89)
STANDARD 2 (Vidmar 6, Hellers 14). **Att:** 6,500.

CLUB BRUGGE 4 (Van der Heyden 3, Vermant 63, Borklemans 80, G. Verheyen 83)
ST TRUIDEN 1 (Luhovy 88). **Att:** 12,000.

LIERSE 2 (Huysmans 4, Lehmann 51)
GENT 1 (Martens 63). **Att:** 7,500.

LOMMEL 0
CERCLE BRUGES 0. **Att:** 8,000.

SERAING 1 (Isaias 64)
CHARLEROI 1 (Casto 77). **Att:** 4,500.

FC LIEGE v EKEREN — *postponed.*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

WEEKEND

EKEREN 2 (Kovacs 65, Van de Walle 88)
LOMMEL 2 (Vandervee 17, Hendrikx 43). **Att:** 2,500.

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	D	A	Pts
Anderlecht	15	10	3	2	34	16	23
Standard Liege	15	9	4	2	26	13	22
Club Brugge	15	9	3	3	34	16	21
Lierse	15	9	2	4	31	19	20
Seraing	15	6	6	3	25	17	18
Aalst	15	6	4	5	31	29	16
Antwerp	15	6	3	6	28	24	15
Mechelen	15	6	3	6	18	19	15
Ekeren	14	5	4	5	27	19	14
Beveren	15	5	4	6	19	25	14
Lommel	15	5	3	7	16	18	13
Gent	15	5	3	7	22	27	13
RWDM	15	3	7	5	14	19	13
Cercle Bruges	15	4	4	7	13	21	12
St Truiden	15	3	6	6	14	23	12
Charleroi	15	3	6	6	10	20	12
Oostende	15	3	2	10	14	33	8
FC Liege	14	1	5	8	16	30	7

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

MIDWEEK

EVERTON 2 (Ferguson 57, Rideout 89)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 39,866.

LEICESTER 2 (Ormondroyd 16, Lowe 28)
ARSENAL 1 (Wright 19 pen). **Att:** 20,774.

TOTTENHAM 0
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 23,037.

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 0
MAN UTD 0. **Att:** 38,301.

BLACKBURN 4 (Sutton 9, Shearer 56, 66 pen, 85)
QPR 0. **Att:** 21,302.

CHELSEA 0
EVERTON 1 (Rideout 39). **Att:** 28,115.

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 14,007.

LEEDS 1 (Whelan 60)
NOTTM FOREST 0. **Att:** 38,191.

LIVERPOOL 1 (Fowler pen 39)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Ruddock og 77). **Att:** 35,007.

MAN CITY 2 (Flitcroft 7, Rosler 89)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 21,131.

NEWCASTLE 1 (Cole 86)
IPSWICH 1 (Thomsen 90). **Att:** 34,459.

NORWICH 2 (Newsome 56, Sutch 90)
LEICESTER 1 (Draper 22). **Att:** 20,657.

WEST HAM 0
COVENTRY 1 (Busst 58). **Att:** 17,251.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Atkinson 15)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Atherton 57). **Att:** 25,082.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP — 4TH RND

NOTTM. F 0 MILLWALL 2
C. PALACE 4 ASTON VILLA 1
ARSENAL 2 SHEFFIELD WED 0
BLACKBURN 1 LIVERPOOL 3
MAN CITY 1 NEWCASTLE 1
WEST HAM 1 BOLTON 3
NORWICH 1 NOTTS COUNTY 0
SWINDON 2 DERBY COUNTY 1

WEEKEND

COVENTRY 1 (Flynn 57)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Rush 2). **Att:** 21,029.

IPSWICH 1 (Mason 73)
MAN CITY 2 (Flitcroft 20, Rosler 42). **Att:** 13,504.

LEICESTER 1 (Gee 5)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Whittingham 61). **Att:** 20,896.

MAN UTD 1 (Cantona 36)
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 43,789.

NOTTM FOREST 2 (Pearce pen 36, Roy 60)
ARSENAL 2 (Keown 59, Davis 76). **Att:** 21,662.

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Bart-Williams 19)
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 21,930.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
CHELSEA 1 (Furlong 89). **Att:** 14,404.

TOTTENHAM 4 (Sheringham 15, 39, 71, Popescu 80)
NEWCASTLE 2 (Fox 30, 42). **Att:** 28,002.

WIMBLEDON 0
BLACKBURN 3 (Atkins 52, Wilcox 72, Shearer 74). **Att:** 12,341.

QPR 2 (Ferdinand 2, Sinclair 37)
WEST HAM 1 (Boere 90). **Att:** 12,780.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

MIDWEEK

EVERTON 3 (Rideout 8, Ferguson 58, Unsworth pen 66)
LEEDS 0. **Att:** 25,897.

WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA 0
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 29,.678.

BLACKBURN 3 (Atkins 6, Shearer 13, 74)
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Le Tissier 65, 78). **Att:** 23,372.

LEEDS 2 (Worthington 3, Deane 25)
WEST HAM 2 (Boere 45, 79). **Att:** 28,987.

NEWCASTLE 3 (Albert 32, 70, Howey 50)
LEICESTER 1 (Oldfield 48). **Att:** 34,400.

NORWICH 3 (Ward 24, 45, Cureton 88)
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 18,246.

NOTTM FOREST 4 (Collymore 4, Gemmill 12, Haaland 27, Pearce 43)
IPSWICH 1 (Thomsen 44). **Att:** 21,340.

QPR 2 (Ferdinand 24, 65)
MAN UTD 3 (Scholes 34, 48, Keane 45). **Att:** 18,948.

TOTTENHAM 3 (Barmby 61, Klinsmann 72, Calderwood 80)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Nolan 38). **Att:** 25,912.

WIMBLEDON 2 (Leonhardsen 4, Harford 17)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 7,349.

LIVERPOOL 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 30,972.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

MIDWEEK

MAN CITY 1 (Simpson 81)
ARSENAL 2 (Smith 31, Schwarz 34). **Att:** 20,500.

WEEKEND

IPSWICH 2 (Milton 8, Sedgley 83)
WIMBLEDON 2 (Holdsworth 2, Goodman 62). **Att:** 11,367.

ARSENAL 1 (Linighan 86)
LEEDS 3 (Masinga 24, 85, Deane 88). **Att:** 38,098.

COVENTRY 0
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 17,233.

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
NORWICH 1 (Ward 47). **Att:** 12,252.

EVERTON 0
TOTTENHAM 0. **Att:** 32,809.

LEICESTER 0
BLACKBURN 0. **Att:** 20,559.

MAN UTD 1 (Cantona 68)
NOTTM FOREST 2 (Collymore 35, Pearce 62). **Att:** 43,744.

SHEFFIELD WED 0
QPR 2 (Maddix 60, Ferdinand 84). **Att:** 22,766.

WEST HAM 3 (Cottee 7, 10, 57)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 17,286.

CHELSEA 0
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 27,050.

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	D	A	Pts
Blackburn	21	15	4	2	45	16	49
Man Utd	22	14	4	4	42	19	46
Liverpool	22	12	6	4	40	19	42
Newcastle	21	11	6	4	40	24	39
Nottm Forest	22	11	6	5	35	23	39
Tottenham	22	9	6	7	38	34	33
Norwich	22	9	6	7	21	19	33
Leeds	21	9	5	7	29	27	32
Sheffield Wed	22	8	6	8	29	30	30
Chelsea	22	8	5	9	29	30	29
Man City	22	8	5	9	33	38	29
Wimbledon	22	8	5	9	26	36	29
Arsenal	22	7	7	8	26	25	28
QPR	22	7	6	9	34	38	27
Southampton	22	6	8	8	33	38	26
West Ham	22	7	4	11	19	24	25
Coventry	22	6	7	9	21	38	25
Crystal Palace	22	5	8	9	15	21	23
Everton	21	5	7	9	20	29	22
Aston Villa	22	4	9	9	27	33	21
Leicester	22	3	6	13	21	37	15
Ipswich	22	3	4	15	21	46	13

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

DORDRECHT 0
GRONINGEN 1 (Sion 83). **Att:** 2,300.

GA EAGLES 0
HEERENVEEN 4 (Hellinga 9, Regtop 18, Tammer 73, 85). **Att:** 6,000.

NAC 2 (Gaasbeek 8, Van Hooijdonk 42)
NEC 0. **Att:** 10,390.

AJAX 3 (Litmanen 5, Overmars 65, 66)
MVV 1 (Visser 39). **Att:** 19,501.

PSV 4 (Nilis 10, Ronaldo pen 15, Numan 67, Ronaldo 88)
FEYENOORD 1 (Larsson 37). **Att:** 27,500.

RKC 1 (Streppel 31)
TWENTE 0. **Att:** 2,200.

RODA JC 1 (Huiberts 50)
UTRECHT 0. **Att:** 8,500.

SPARTA 0
WILLEM II 2 (Stewart 26, Laros 46). **Att:** 3,000.

VITESSE 0
VOLENDAM 0. **Att:** 6,249

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

DUTCH CUP — 5TH ROUND

DEN HAAG 0 NAC 2
NEC 0 AJAX 3
FC UTRECHT 3 FC TWENTE 1
WILLEM II 1 FEYENOORD 1
Feyenoord won on pens
AJAX RES' 2 DORDRECHT 0
HERACLES 1 SPARTA 2 *(Aet)*
PSV 0 HEERENVEEN 1
VOLENDAM 3 AZ 67 0

WEEKEND

MVV 1 (Roelofsen 77)
RODA JC 1 (Delahaye og 60). **Att:** 10,000.

HEERENVEEN 4 (Sier 36, Tammer 42, Echteld 78, Polley 86)
NEC 2 (Van der Linden 21, Van Wanrooy 44). **Att:** 12,400.

WILLEM II 4 (Van Geel 7, Bouchial 25, Feskens 36, Vos 71)
GA EAGLES 0. **Att:** 6,100.

FEYENOORD 0
VITESSE 3 (Makaay 27, Gillhaus 50, Korsten 86). **Att:** 31,400.

GRONINGEN 4 (Koeman 10, 87, Kuizingh 53, Bombarda 80)
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 10,720.

RKC 2 (Decheiver 26, Ten Hag 31)
NAC 0. **Att:** 3,900.

FC TWENTE 2 (Bosvelt 6, Boerebach 63)
PSV 2 (Numan 74, Meijer 89). **Att:** 10,600.

UTRECHT 3 (Hernandez 49, 88 Hofstede 56)
DORDRECHT 1 (Hoop 53). **Att:** 5,000.

VOLENDAM 2 (Smeets 4, Ooyer 34)
AJAX 2 (Kanu 1, Seedorf 3). **Att:** 8,100.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

MIDWEEK

PSV 2 (Zenden 8, 81)
RKC 2 (Streppel 25, Decheiver pen 88). **Att:** 23,500.

WEEKEND

HEERENVEEN 4 (De Visser pen 23, Roelofsen 35, Tammer 53, 67)
NAC 3 (Van Hooijdonk 20, Hansma og 30, Remie 85). **Att:** 13,000.

SPARTA 5 (Boogers 55, 73, Van der Laan 62, 63, Krijgsman 81)
UTRECHT 0. **Att:** 3,225.

FC TWENTE 3 (Boerebach pen 6, Bosvelt 19, Elzinga 35)
MVV 0. **Att:** 7,100.

VITESSE 3 (Helder 15, 42, 80)
WILLEM II 1(Van Geel 81). **Att:** 7,017.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

WEEKEND

DORDRECHT 1 (Langerak 76)
MVV 2 (Scheepers 35, Roelofsen 60). **Att:** 1,800.

GA EAGLES 2 (Rorije 21, 75)
GRONINGEN 4 (Veenhof 10, Koeman 44, Sion 49, Huizingh pen 70). **Att:** 5,200.

RODA JC 2 (Huiberts 10, Babangida 81)
VOLENDAM 1 (Vukov 63). **Att:** 6,500.

FEYENOORD 1 (Larsson 50)
RKC 0. **Att:** 22,718.

NEC 2 (Lok 56, Pothuizen 60)
WILLEM II 2 (Stewart 12, Laros 65). **Att:** 2,900.

VITESSE 6 (Makaay 43, 69, Helder 52, Cocu 53, Laamers 79, Van der Weerden 87)
FC TWENTE 1 (Ter Avest 68). **Att:** 8,960.

NAC 2 (Gerritsen 8, Lokhoff 90)
AJAX 2 (Gaasbeek og 24, R de Boer 78). **Att:** 10,845.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roda JC	16	10	6	0	31	9	26
Ajax	14	10	4	0	41	11	24
PSV	16	8	5	3	39	22	21
FC Twente	15	6	5	2	36	23	21
Vitesse Arnhem	16	7	6	3	25	19	20
Feyenoord	15	8	3	4	28	24	19
Heerenveen	16	8	2	6	28	31	18
Willem II	16	7	3	6	25	23	17
MVV	16	6	3	7	25	29	15
Groningen	16	5	4	7	25	28	14
Sparta	16	5	3	8	22	23	13
NAC Breda	15	4	5	6	24	27	13
Utrecht	15	5	3	7	19	26	13
Volendam	16	2	8	6	15	24	12
NEC	15	4	3	8	22	28	11
RKC	15	3	4	8	18	26	10
GA Eagles	16	1	5	10	13	42	7
Dordrecht	16	0	6	10	9	31	6

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND

BEIRA-MAR 1 (Cabral 27)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 8,300.

BENFICA 3 (Quim Machada og 31, Abel Xavier pen 49, Helder 54)
ESTRELA AMADORA 1 (Fernando 80). **Att:** 30,000.

SPORTING BRAGA 2 (Jose Nuno Azevedo 69, Karoglan 77)
MARITIMO 2 (Paulo Alves 20, 82). **Att:** 13,250.

CHAVES 1 (David 32)
GUIMARAES 1 (Gilmar pen 81). **Att:** 7,500.

GIL VICENTE 1 (Helcinho 19)
FARENSE 1 (Tuck 90). **Att:** 6,000.

UNIAO LEIRIA 0
SPORTING LISBON 3 (Marco Aurelio 23, Naybet 42, Figo 74). **Att:** 17,000.

UNIAO MADEIRA 0
SALGUEIROS 4 (Edmilsson 47, 57, Fernando Almeida 60, Miguel Simao 90). **Att:** 8,000.

FC PORTO 1 (Secretario 62)
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 30,000.

VIT. SETUBAL 1 (Stevanovic 86)
BOAVISTA 3 (Artur pen 23, 27, Sanchez 90). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

PORTUGUESE CUP — 4TH RND

BRAGA 1 CHAVES 0
BENFICA 12 MARINHENSE 0
FC PORTO 3 ESTORIL 1
SPORTING 1 ESPINHO 0
GIL VICENTE 0 FEIRENSE 2
ACADEMICO VISEU 1 UNIAO 0
MOREIRENSE 1 MARITIMO 2
VIANENSE 0 VIT. SETUBAL 1
SALGUEIROS 3 LUSITANO 0

BOAVISTA 3 PENAFIEL 1
U. LEIRIA 2 BELENENSES 0
TIRSENSE 1 BEIRA-MAR 1 *(Aet)*
ESTRELA 0 FARENSE 0 *(Aet)*
WEEKEND
ESTRELA AMADORA 0
PORTO 1 (Secretario 20). **Att:** 5,000.
BELENENSES 1 (Joao Pinto 59)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Roberto Carlos 70). **Att:** 3,000.
BOAVISTA 2 (Artur 12, Abazaj 75)
UNIAO LEIRIA 0. **Att:** 5,000.
SPT. BRAGA 1 (Piguita og 44)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 7,000.
FARENSE 2 (Nader pen 36, Djukic 51)
CHAVES 0. **Att:** 3,000.
SPORTING LISBON 1 (Amunike 57)
BENFICA 0. **Att:** 55,000.
MARITIMO 2 (Alex 71, 79)
GUIMARAES 3 (Tlemcani 49, 84, Tanta 82). **Att:** 10,000.
SALGUEIROS 3 (Zoran Hadgic 36, Almeida 74, 82)
VITORIA SETUBAL 2 (Dino 54, 90 pen). **Att:** 6,000.
TIRSENSE 2 (Cipriano 12, 90)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. **Att:** 2,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WEEKEND
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Carlos Costa 12)
MARITIMO 0. **Att:** 2,000.
BENFICA 4 (Edilson 1,Caniggia 14, Tavares 50, Joao 87)
BOAVISTA 1 (Sanchez 26). **Att:** 45,000.
CHAVES 0
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 4,500.
GIL VICENTE 1 (Neves 75)
ESTRELA AMADORA 1 (Fernando 21). **Att:** 5,300.
UNIAO LEIRIA 2 (El Khalej 86, 89)
SALGUEIROS 1 (Luis Manuel 68). **Att:** 6,000.
UNIAO MADEIRA 0
SPORTING BRAGA 0. **Att:** 4,000.
FC PORTO 1 (Jose Carlos 5)
SPORTING LISBON 1 (Figo 51). **Att:** 55,000.
VITORIA GUIMARAES 2 (Pedro Barbosa 1, 49)
FARENSE 0. **Att:** 10,000.
VITORIA SETUBAL 1 (Evandro 83)
TIRSENSE 2 (Marcelo Cipriano 78, Evandro 83). **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

MIDWEEK
PORTUGUESE CUP — 4TH ROUND REPLAYS
FARENSE 2 ESTRELA 1
BEIRA MAR 2 TIRSENSE 3
WEEKEND
BRAGA 2 (Baltasar 37, 44 pen)
VITORIA SETUBAL 1 (Brundin 45). **Att:** 4,000.
MARITIMO 2 (Alex 47, Gustavo 79)
FARENSE 1 (Nader 88). **Att:** 8,000.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	15	12	2	1	30	7	26
Sporting Lisbon	15	11	4	0	28	9	26
Benfica	15	10	2	3	29	10	22
Tirsense	15	10	0	5	19	10	20
Vit. Guimaraes	15	7	4	4	22	20	18
Maritimo	15	7	3	5	20	18	17
Spt. Braga	15	6	4	5	16	18	16
Boavista	15	7	2	6	21	22	16
Uniao Leiria	15	6	3	6	18	21	15
Beira-Mar	15	6	1	8	15	20	13
Belenenses	15	4	4	7	14	15	12
Chaves	15	4	4	7	14	26	12
Salgueiros	15	5	2	8	16	20	12
Farense	15	4	3	8	14	22	11
Estrela Amadora	15	2	6	7	17	20	10
Gil Vicente	15	3	4	8	11	17	10
Uniao Madeira	15	2	5	8	13	29	9
Vit. Setubal	15	0	5	10	15	28	5

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEEKEND
FALKIRK 1 (Henderson 35)
DUNDEE UTD 3 (Brewster 63, Nixon 74, McKinlay 77). **Att:** 5,933.
RANGERS 1 (McCoist 55)
ABERDEEN 0. **Att:** 45,072.
KILMARNOCK 3 (Mitchell 60, McKee 74, Skilling 87)
HEARTS 1 (Robertson 30). **Att:** 8,029.
MOTHERWELL 3 (Coyne 6, Davies 22, Arnott 39)
PARTICK 1 (Cameroon 44). **Att:** 6,893.

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP — FINAL
CELTIC 2 (Walker 32, Nicholas 84)
RAITH ROVERS 2 (Crawford 18, Dalziel 87). **Att:** 45,348 *(at Ibrox).*
Aet, Raith Rovers won 6-5 on pens

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

MIDWEEK
HIBERNIAN 1 (Jackson pen 85)
CELTIC 1 (Collins 1). **Att:** 12,200.
WEEKEND
ABERDEEN 0
KILMARNOCK 1 (Maskrey 1). **Att:**10,386.
CELTIC 2 (Falconer 21, Philliben og 40)
MOTHERWELL 2 (Coyne 45, 61). **Att:** 21,465.
HEARTS 1 (Thomas 23)
FALKIRK 1 (McDonald 41). **Att:** 8,960.
PARTICK 2 (Foster 33, English 80)
HIBERNIAN 2 (McGinlay 51, O'Neill 58). **Att:** 6,048.
DUNDEE UTD 0
RANGERS 3 (Laudrup 17, Huistra 53, Durrant 56). **Att:** 10,692.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WEEKEND
HIBERNIAN 2 (Jackson pen 83, O'Neill 89)
FALKIRK 2 (McDonald 21, Rice pen 84). **Att:** 7,743.
KILMARNOCK 1 (McKee 76)
RANGERS 2 (McLaren 7, Laudrup 62). **Att:** 17,283.
MOTHERWELL 0
ABERDEEN 1 (McCart og 35). **Att:** 7,020.
CELTIC v HEARTS — *postponed*
PARTICK v DUNDEE UTD — *postponed*

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	D	A	Pts
Rangers	19	13	3	3	36	14	42
Motherwell	19	8	8	3	33	26	32
Hibernian	19	6	11	2	27	16	29
Celtic	18	5	10	3	19	16	25
Falkirk	19	5	8	6	25	29	23
Hearts	18	6	3	9	23	28	21
Kilmarnock	19	4	8	7	20	26	20
Dundee Utd	18	5	5	8	21	32	20
Aberdeen	19	4	7	8	22	24	19
Partick Thistle	18	3	5	10	16	31	14

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

MIDWEEK
LAUSANNE 2 (Sogbie pen 45, 73)
AARAU 2 (Ratinho 4, Fink 18). **Att:** 2,800.
WEEKEND
AARAU 3 (Buhlmann 11, Kucharski 51, Ratinho 70)
ST GALLEN 0. **Att:** 5,400.
BASEL 0
YOUNG BOYS 1 (Hartmann 10). **Att:** 23,000.
LUGANO 2 (Manfreda 1, Sinval 69)
LAUSANNE 3 (Sogbie 21, Sogie 73, Poulard 39). **Att:** 4,200.
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 0
GRASSHOPPER 2 (Koller 5, Subiat 33). **Att:** 10,800.
SERVETTE 1 (Neuville 71)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 5,500.
FC ZURICH 4 (Heydecker 10, Skoro 42, Waas 45, Sahin 58)
SION 0. **Att:** 4,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

WEEKEND
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Vega 25)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 5,700.
LAUSANNE 1 (Di Jorio 15)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 4 (Detari pen 26, Wiederkehr 62, Isabella 67, Chassot 71). **Att:** 5,300.
LUCERNE 2 (Guntensperger 45, Gmur 72)
FC ZURICH 1 (Sahin 39). **Att:** 8,700.
ST GALLEN 1 (Soller 85)
LUGANO 0. **Att:** 3,000.
SION 0
BASEL 0. **Att:** 10,500.
YOUNG BOYS 4 (Giallanza 30 pen, Moser 72, Ippoliti 76, Aduobe 85)
SERVETTE 1 (Moro 46). **Att:** 4,600.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	22	13	5	4	36	21	31
Lugano	22	8	9	5	30	17	25
Aarau	22	8	9	5	34	22	25
Neuchatel Xamax	22	9	6	7	33	31	24
Lausanne	22	8	8	6	34	34	24
Sion	22	10	3	9	32	37	23
Basel	22	6	8	8	18	15	20
Lucerne	22	7	6	9	22	31	20
FC Zurich	22	4	11	7	23	27	19
Servette	22	6	6	10	26	31	18
St Gallen	22	4	10	8	20	28	18
Young Boys	22	6	5	11	23	37	17

EUROPEAN TABLES

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aab Aalborg	17	12	2	3	42	19	26
Brondby	17	11	3	3	35	17	25
OB Odense	17	9	4	4	29	20	22
Lyngby	17	6	6	5	34	27	18
FC Copenhagen	17	6	3	8	30	34	15
Naestved	17	4	7	6	24	30	15
Silkeborg	17	4	7	6	16	23	15
Aarhus	17	5	5	7	21	30	15
Ikast	17	3	5	9	21	27	11
Fremad Amager	17	4	0	13	20	45	8

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork City	19	10	3	6	38	25	33
Shamrock Rov	20	9	6	5	32	22	33
Derry City	20	9	6	5	32	22	33
St Patrick's Ath	20	8	8	4	35	20	32
Dundalk	20	9	5	6	21	18	32
Shelbourne	20	8	6	6	24	21	30
Bohemians	20	7	7	6	28	21	28
Sligo Rovers	20	7	6	7	28	25	27
Galway	20	7	6	7	27	34	27
Cobh Ramblers	20	3	7	10	18	33	16
Athlone Town	19	2	9	8	18	25	15
Monaghan Utd	20	4	3	13	14	41	15

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crusaders	17	13	3	1	36	15	42
Portadown	17	9	2	6	35	22	29
Glenavon	16	8	4	4	34	20	28
Linfield	17	8	4	5	31	19	28
Coleraine	17	6	9	2	30	23	27
Glentoran	17	7	5	5	28	23	26
Ards	17	7	3	7	29	29	24
Cliftonville	16	6	5	5	18	17	23
Distillery	17	6	5	6	27	28	23
Carrick	17	6	5	6	33	38	23
Bangor	17	5	7	5	24	20	22
Omagh Town	16	4	8	4	20	18	20
Ballymena	16	5	4	7	24	27	19
Ballyclare	17	3	3	11	19	36	12
Newry	15	1	5	9	16	37	8
Larne	17	2	2	13	11	43	8

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Omonia	16	9	5	2	41	15	32
Anorthosis	16	9	5	2	30	14	32
Apollon	16	8	4	4	22	12	28
Apoel	16	8	3	5	22	20	27
Salamina	16	8	2	6	28	25	26
Paralimni	16	7	4	5	27	24	25
Ethnikos	16	7	2	7	26	24	23
AEK	16	6	3	7	22	20	21
Olympiakos	16	6	3	7	22	32	21
AEL	16	4	4	8	19	33	16
Aris	16	2	4	10	11	23	10
Aradippou	16	1	3	12	17	45	6

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	13	11	2	0	36	8	35
OFI Crete	13	8	3	2	20	9	27
AEK Athens	13	7	4	2	24	12	25
PAOK Salonika	13	8	3	3	29	12	24
Iraklis	13	7	2	4	25	15	23
Olympiakos	13	6	3	4	22	11	21
Apollon	13	6	3	4	21	15	21
Skoda Xanthi	13	4	5	4	20	17	17
Panionios	13	4	5	4	16	17	17
Edesaikos	13	5	2	6	13	16	17
Aris Salonika	13	5	2	6	14	17	17
Larissa	13	4	5	4	12	15	17
Athinaikos	13	3	4	6	5	8	13
Ionikos	13	3	2	8	11	28	11
Doxa Drama	13	2	4	7	10	30	10
Ethnikos	13	1	6	6	9	20	9
Levadiakos	13	2	3	8	8	22	9
Kavala	13	2	2	9	6	29	8

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hapoel Petah	13	7	3	3	21	16	24
Tel-Aviv	13	7	2	4	26	15	23
Haifa	13	6	5	2	25	17	23
Hapoel Tel-Aviv	13	6	5	2	23	17	23
Bnei Yehoudah	13	6	4	3	25	18	22
Hap. Beer Shevah	13	6	4	3	24	17	22
Betar Jerusalem	13	6	3	4	21	14	21
Hapoel Bet Sheah	13	5	4	4	13	18	19
Petah-Tikvah	13	4	5	4	20	18	17
Nathanyah	13	4	3	6	20	24	15
Ironi Rishon	13	3	5	5	15	15	14
Betar Tel-Aviv	13	4	2	7	15	25	14
Hapoel Haifa	13	3	3	7	20	24	12
Zafririm Hollon	13	3	3	7	18	24	12
Ironi Ashod	13	3	3	7	15	23	12
Herzliah	13	2	4	7	13	29	10

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	17	12	3	2	44	16	39
Besiktas	17	12	3	2	41	14	39
Trabzonspor	17	11	3	3	41	18	36
Fenerbahce	17	9	4	4	40	19	31
Bursaspor	17	9	3	5	26	17	30
Genclerbirligi	17	8	5	4	26	23	29
Vanspor	16	7	1	8	16	16	22
Kocaeclispor	17	6	4	7	27	32	22
Samsunspor	17	5	6	6	29	28	21
Ankaragucu	17	6	3	8	19	27	21
Kayserispor	17	6	3	8	29	43	21
Altay	17	4	7	5	24	25	19
Denizlispor	17	5	4	8	25	29	19
Gaziantepspor	17	4	5	8	20	27	17
Antalyaspor	17	4	4	9	18	26	16
Zeytinburnuspor	17	4	3	10	17	39	15
Petrolofisi	17	4	2	11	16	41	14
Adana Demispor	17	3	3	11	17	35	12

SLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan Bratislava	16	12	4	0	36	11	40
FC Kosice	16	8	5	3	32	17	29
Spartak Trnava	16	8	2	6	26	18	26
Dukla Bystrica	16	6	4	6	23	18	22
DAC Dunajska	16	6	4	6	20	18	22
Lok. Kosice	16	7	1	8	28	35	22
MFK Prievidza	16	6	4	6	15	24	22
Bardejov	16	6	2	8	20	21	20
Inter Bratislava	16	5	5	6	20	24	20
Tatran Presov	16	5	4	7	19	25	19
FC Chemlon	16	3	6	7	16	30	15
SK Zilina	16	3	1	12	16	30	10

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua Bucharest	17	10	5	2	35	11	36
FC National	17	11	2	4	39	22	35
Univ. Craiova	17	10	3	4	40	19	33
Petrolul Ploiesti	17	8	4	5	25	18	28
Ceahlaul Piatra	17	8	4	5	28	25	28
Din. Bucharest	17	8	3	6	28	22	27
Rapid Bucharest	17	8	3	6	23	21	27
Gloria Bistrita	17	8	2	7	34	30	26
Arges Pitesti	17	8	2	7	22	27	26
Univ. Cluj	17	7	4	6	20	19	25
Inter Sibiu	17	8	1	8	28	30	25
Farul Constanta	17	6	3	8	20	29	21
Otelul Galati	17	5	5	7	25	27	20
FC Brasov	17	5	4	8	15	25	19
Electro. Craiova	17	4	3	10	14	24	15
Baia Mare	17	3	4	10	17	31	13
UT Arad	17	3	4	10	12	33	13
Sportul Student	17	2	6	9	11	23	12

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kiev Dynamo	17	13	4	0	44	16	43
Shakhtyor	17	12	2	3	36	12	38
Dnipro	17	11	2	4	31	21	35
Chornomorets	17	9	4	4	28	16	31
Tavria	17	9	2	6	37	23	29
Krivbas	17	8	3	6	15	11	27
Kremen	17	8	3	6	21	18	27
Torpedo	17	8	1	8	21	24	25
Veres	17	7	3	7	21	30	24
Niva Vinnitsa	17	7	1	9	21	19	22
Karpaty Lvov	17	5	6	6	15	19	21
Prikarpattie	17	5	4	8	18	27	19
Niva Ternopil	17	5	3	9	20	23	18
Zariya-Mals	17	5	3	9	22	33	18
Metalurg-Victor	17	4	4	9	20	32	16
Volyn	17	4	2	11	13	30	14
Temp	17	3	4	10	13	20	13
SC Nikolayev	17	4	1	12	12	34	13

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
(December 7)
GROUP A

BARCELONA 1 (Bakero 81)
IFK GOTHENBURG 1 (Rehn 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 75,200. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel).
Barcelona: Busquets – Nadal, Guardiola, Koeman, Sergi, Bakero, Eusebio, Stoichkov, Amor (Jordi 85), Romario, Beguiristain (Abelardo 71).
IFK: Ravelli – Karnark, Johansson, Bjorklund, M Nilsson, Martinsson (Wahlstedt 69), Erlingmark, Lindqvist, Blomqvist, Rehn, Pettersson.
MANCHESTER UNITED 4 (Davies 3, Beckham 38, Keane 49, Bulent og 88)
GALATASARAY 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 39,220. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol).
Man Utd: Walsh – Neville, Irwin, Bruce, Keane, Pallister, Cantona, Butt, McClair, Beckham, Davies.
Galatasaray: Stauce – Ergun, Bulent K, Sedat, Mert, Tugay (Yusuf 63), Arif, Hamza (Ugur 46), Hakan, Suat, Kubilay Turkyilmaz.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK Gothenburg	6	4	1	1	10	7	9
Barcelona	6	2	2	2	11	8	6
Man Utd	6	2	2	2	11	11	6
Galatasaray	6	1	1	4	3	9	3

GROUP B

KIEV DYNAMO 1 (Shevchenko 38)
BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Nerlinger 47, Papin 57, 82, Scholl 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Krondl (Cze).
Kiev: Shovkovski – Luzhni, Lezhentsev, Khomin, Mikhailenko, Kovalets, Kosovski (Prizetko 68), Skachenko, Shevchenko, Leonenko (Mizin 62), Shkapenko.
Bayern: Scheuer – Babbel, Ziege, Kreuzer, Helmer, Nerlinger, Jorginho, Hamann, Papin, Matthaus (Frey 72), Sutter (Scholl 78).
PARIS SAINT GERMAIN 4 (Weah 28, 52, Ginola 42, Rai 59)
MOSCOW SPARTAK 1 (Rodionov 67)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 31,461. **Ref:** Uzunov (Bul).
Paris SG: Lama – Llacer, Colleter, Le Guen (Guerin 53), Roche, Kombouare, Bravo, Dieng, Weah (Allou 68), Rai, Ginola.
Spartak: Tiapuchkin – Khlestov, Lipko, Alenichev, Kechinov (Konovalov 79), Nikiforov, Onopko, Tikhonov, Piatnitski, Pisarev, Mukhamadiev (Rodionov 52).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	6	6	0	0	12	3	12
Bayern Munich	6	2	2	2	8	7	6
Moscow Spartak	6	1	2	3	8	12	4
Kiev Dynamo	6	1	0	5	5	11	2

GROUP C

ANDERLECHT 1 (Rutjes 48)
BENFICA 1 (Edilson 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Batta (Fra).
Anderlecht: De Wilde – Crasson, Rutjes, Emmers (Haagdoren 68), Doll, Walem, Preko, Zetterberg (Peiremans 89), Bosman, Degryse, Boffin.
Benfica: Preud'homme – Veloso, William, Helder, Dimas, Tavares, Vitor Paneira (Kenedy 67), Joao Vieira Pinto, Caniggia, Nelo (Paulo Bento 67), Edilson.
HAJDUK SPLIT 1 (Andrijasevic 48)
STEAUA BUCHAREST 4 (Ilie 11, 32, Lacatus 23, Gilca 90)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco).
Hajduk: Stavica – Butorovic, Person, Hibic, Stimac (Racunica 46), Andrijasevic, Vulic, Pralija, Erceg, Asanovic, Vucevic (Vukas 46).
Steaua: Stingaciu (Gherasim 90) – Csik, Pirvu, Dobos, Gilca, Prodan, Lacatus (Ion 89), Militaru, Ilie (Filipescu 74), Rosu, Stan.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	6	3	3	0	9	5	9
Hajduk Split	6	2	2	2	5	7	6
Steaua	6	1	3	2	7	6	5
Anderlecht	6	0	4	2	4	7	4

GROUP D

AJAX 2 (Oulida 8, 79)
AEK ATHENS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Monteiro Coroado (Por).
Ajax: Van der Sar – Reiziger, Blind, Rijkaard, F De Boer, Seedorf, George (Van Vossen 77), Oulida, R De Boer, Litmanen (Kluivert 77), Overmars.
AEK: Atmatsidis – Agorogiannis, Papadopoulos, Kutulas (Kopitsis 46), Stamatis, Vlachos, Saravakos, Borbokis, Kostis (Ketspaia 67), Tsartas, Kasapis.
CASINO SALZBURG 0
MILAN 1 (Massaro 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 47,500 *(in Vienna).* **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom).
Salzburg: Konrad – Lainer, Kocijan, Mladenovic, Furstaller, Winklhofer (Hasenhuttl 58), Jurcevic, Artner, Pfeifenberger, Feiersinger, Hiden (Hutter 72).
Milan: Rossi – Panucci, Maldini, Albertini, Galli, Baresi, Donadoni, Desailly, Massaro, Savicevic (Sordo 72), Simone (Tassotti 58).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Milan	6	3	1	2	6	5	5
Salzburg	6	1	3	2	4	6	5
AEK Athens	6	0	2	4	3	9	2

● *Milan deducted 2pts for crowd trouble*

UEFA CUP
3rd rnd – 2nd leg
(Dec 6 unless stated)

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Schuster 11, Thom 13, Scholz 15, Happal 28)
GKS KATOWICE 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 15,000.
Leverkusen won 8-1 on agg
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Zorc 50, Riedle 115, Ricken 118)
LA CORUNA 1 (A. Santaelena 102)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 1-0. **Att:** 38,500.
Dortmund won 3-2 on agg, aet
Dortmund: Klos – Sammer, Schmidt, Julio Cesar, Franck (Ricken 71), Zorc,

Moller, Freund, K Reinhardt, Riedle, Chapuisat (Kree 100).
La Coruna: Llano – Salvador, Francisco Jemez, Djukic, Villarroya, Lopez Rekarte, Aldana (Alfredo 65), Fran, Donato, Salinas (Claudio Barragan 79), Fernando Martinez.

JUVENTUS 2 (Ferrara 17, Vialli 86)
ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Wimmer 73)
HT: 1-0. Att: 9,000.
Juventus won 5-2 on agg

LAZIO 2 (Cravero 25, Di Vaio 75)
TRABZONSPOR 1 (Boz Soner 73)
HT: 1-0. Att: 30,000.
Lazio won 4-2 on agg

NAPOLI 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Falkenmayer 55)
HT: 0-0. Att: 20,000 *(Dec 7)*.
Frankfurt won 2-0 on agg
Napoli: Taglialatela – Luzardi, Tarantino, Bordin, Pari, Andre Cruz, Buso, Rincon (Altomare 65), Agostini (Policano 34), Carbone, Pecchia.
Frankfurt: Koepke – Komljenovic, Weber, Roth, Binz, Falkenmayer, Bindewald, Dickhaut (Wolf 51), Furtok, Legat, Becker (Penska 76).

PARMA 4 (Zola 21, D Baggio 39, 55, Fernando Couto 72)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Vales 64, Guerrero 83)
HT: 2-0. Att: 15,000.
Parma won 4-3 on agg
Parma: Bucci – Mussi (Franchini 53), Di Chiara, Pin, Apolloni, Fernando Couto, Fiore (Asprilla 60), D Baggio, Crippa, Zola, Sensini.
Bilbao: Valencia – Tabuenka (Mendiguren 60), Larrazabal, Karanka, Andrinua, Urrutia, Goikoetxea, Guerrero, Ciganda, Garitano (Alkiza 73), Vales.

REAL MADRID 0
OB ODENSE 2 (Pedersen 71, Bisgaard 90)
HT: 0-2. Att: 50,000.
OB won 4-3 on agg

SION 2 (Herr 76, Marin 82)
NANTES 2 (Loko 30, N'Doram 31)
HT: 0-2. Att: 12,000 *(Dec 8)*.
Nantes won 6-2 on agg
Sion: Lehmann – Wicky, Herr, Geiger, Fournier, Gianni (Oggier 74), Lonfat, Assis, Orlando (Kunz 60), Bonvin, Marin.
Nantes: Casagrande – Ledizet, Decroix (Cauet 46), Capron, Pignol, Karembeu, Ferri, Makelele, N'Doram, Pedros, Loko (Ouedec 66).

INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Oct 19 = Lima – friendly
PERU 0
URUGUAY 1 (Dario Silva)
HT: 0-1. Att: 7,000
Peru: Pizarro – Jorge Soto, Dulanto, Jose Soto, Salazar, Solano (Carmona), Carranza, Palacios, Jayo (Rosales), Muchotrigo (Dolorier), Saenz (Rivera).
Uruguay: Arbizo – Lopez, Gutierrez*, Abelion, Dorta (T Silva), Adinolfi, O Otero, M Otero (Delgado), Bengoechea (Mendez), Martinez, D Silva (Tito).
* *Gutierrez sent off, 60min.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Nov 26 = Port Elizabeth – Four Nations Cup
SOUTH AFRICA 2 (Maponyane 11, Khumalo 65 pen)
GHANA 1 (Amankwah 77)
HT: 1-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Mpele (Cam)
S Africa: Crowley – Motale, Nyathi, Tovey, Tucker – Tinkler, Khumalo, I Buthelezi, Mkhalele (Mncwango 85) – Augustine, Maponyane (Mudau 78).
Ghana: S Addo – Amankwah, I Asare, Kuffour, Dodoo – Acheampong, Lamptey, D Addo, Saba (Aboagye 72) – Tetteh, Pele.

Nov 26 = Port Elizabeth – Four Nations Cup
IVORY COAST 2 (Yoro Bi Tra 51, Dago 80)
CAMEROON 1 (Massock 65)
HT: 0-0. Att: 10,000. Ref: Symons (SA)
Ivory Coast: Konate – Aka, Kamara, Kpassagnon, Gbahou – Kone, Tchiressoua, Sie, Yoro Bi Tra (Diaby 62) – Bamba (Bassole 37), Dago.
Cameroon: Boukar – Manga, Onana, Nde, Moukoko – Feutmba, Fiala (Massock 53), Mbouh, Emo (Dikoume 13) – Maboang, Ewane.

Nov 26 = Nairobi – East-Central Africa Cup gp A
KENYA 3 (F Odour 4, Lwanga 72, Swaka 82)
SOMALIA 1 (Moh Abdi 9)
HT: 1-1. Att: 12,000.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Nov 27 = Mumias – East-Central Africa Cup gp B
KENYA B 0
UGANDA 2 (Mutiaba 43, Tamale 80)
HT: 0-1. Att: 6,000.
● *Not a full international*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Nov 28 = Nairobi – East-Central Africa Cup gp A
KENYA 4 (Nyangwesa 19, Yakhama 69, Z Otieno 79, F Odour 86)
DJIBOUTI 1 (Abdurrahman 56)
HT: 1-0. Att: 6,000.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Nov 29 = Mumias, Kenya – East-Central Africa Cup g B
ERITREA 1 (Y. Shimpenew 12)
SEYCHELLES 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 5,000.

Nov 29 = Nairobi – East-Central Africa Cup gp A
TANZANIA 4 (J. Nteze 11, 84, G. Masatu 67, M. Selemani 74)
SOMALIA 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 4,000.

Nov. 29 = Jerusalem – friendly
ISRAEL 4 (Hazan 27, 38, R Harazi 39, Rosenthal 76)
CYPRUS 3 (Halfon og 14, Gogic 33, Hajilukos 54)
HT: 3-2. Att: 4,000.
Israel: Ginzburg – Halfon, Amshalom (Glam 50), Hazan, A Harazi – Klinger, Shalah, Nimny, Berkowitz – R Harazi, Rosenthal.
Cyprus: M Christofi (Panayiotu 46) – M Charalambous, Ch. Charalambous, Ioannou (Konstantinou 46), E Christofi (Stefani 46) – Zempasis (Sakis 46), Malekos, Fasuliotis (Hadjilukas 46), Gogic – Sotiriou (Ilia 46), Savidis (Andreou 46).

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Nov 30 = Malaga – friendly
SPAIN 2 (Nadal 11, Goikoetxea 86)
FINLAND 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 38,190. Ref: Elleray (Eng)
Spain: Zubizarreta (Canizares 46) – Belsue, Ferrer, Alkorta, Voro (Camarasa 46) – Aldano (Goikoetxea 46), Nadal, Amor (Guerrero 46), Hierro – Amavisca (Cueller 46), Pizzi.
Finland: Niemi (Toljonen 52) – Makela, Kanerva, Eriksson, Helin (Huttunen 46) – Hyypia, Myyry, Ratanen (Heinola 46), Sumiala – Ruhanen (Kolkka 46), Hjelm.

Nov 30 = Port Elizabeth – Four Nations Cup
GHANA 1 (Lamptey 3)
CAMEROON 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 30,000.
Ghana: S Addo – Amankwah, I Asare, Dodoo, Kuffour – Acheampong, Aboagye, D Addo, Lamptey – Owusu (Hagan 81), Tetteh.
Cameroon: Boukar – Agbo, Nde, Moukoko, Lewono – Feutmba, Mbouh, Dikoume (Ewane 46), Mimboe – Maboangh, Massock (Wanga 81).

Nov 30 = Port Elizabeth – Four Nations Cup
SOUTH AFRICA 0
IVORY COAST 0
Att: 30,000.
S Africa: Du Plessis – Motale, Nyathi, Tucker, Tovey – Tinkler, Khumalo, I Buthelezi – Augustine, Makalakalane, Maponyane (Mkhalele 72).
Ivory Coast: Konate – Aka, Diaby (Dago 60), Gbahou, Kpassagnon – Dadie, Kone, Kamara, Sie – Yoro Bi Tra (Bassole 26), A Traore.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Dec 1 = Nairobi – East-Central Africa Cup gp A
SOMALIA 2 (Mayow og 13, Abanur 50)
DJIBOUTI 1 (Ilitire Guley 22)
HT: 1-1. Att: 6,000

Dec 1 = Nairobi – East-Central Africa Cup gp A
TANZANIA 1 (John Nteze 57)
KENYA 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 6,000

Dec 1 = Nairobi – East-Central Africa Cup gp B
UGANDA 2 (Omar Senoga 41, 76)
SEYCHELLES 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 13,000

Dec 1 = Nairobi – East-Central Africa Cup gp B
ERITREA 2 (A Afrem 58, A Meles 81)
KENYA B 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 13,000
● *Not a full international*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Dec 3 = Nairobi – East Central Africa Cup gp A
TANZANIA 3 (Salvatore Edward 2, Clement Kahabuka 30, John Nteze 75)
DJIBOUTI 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 1,000

Dec 3 = Nairobi – East Central Africa Cup gp B
UGANDA 0
ERITREA 0
Att: 6,000

Dec 3 = Nairobi – East Central Africa Cup gp B
KENYA B 3 (Tony Sajero 10, Thomas Rero 52, Robert Olango 90)
SEYCHELLES 2 (Paul Khan 20, Ralph Louis 83)
HT: 1-1. Att: 6,000.
● *Not a full international*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Dec 4 = Johannesburg – Four Nations Cup
IVORY COAST 1 (Ibrahim Kone 38)
GHANA 1 (Ebenezer Hagan 6)
HT: 1-1. Att: 20,000. Ref: Mathabela (SA)
Ivory Coast: Konate – Aka, Dadie (Tchiressoa 70), D Kouame, I Kamara – Dao (Badara 73), Kone, Sie – Bassole, Ab Traore, Bamba.
Ghana: Mensah – Amankwah, Asare, Dodoo, Baidoo – D Addo, Kuffour, Lamptey, Hagan (Da Costa 61) – Aboagye, Tetteh.

Dec 4 = Johannesburg – Four Nations Cup
SOUTH AFRICA 1 (Ed. Motale 48)
CAMEROON 1 (Emmanuel Kessack Maboang 44)
HT: 0-1. Att: 20,000. Ref: Bortey (Gha)
S Africa: Du Plessis – Motale, Nyathi, Tucker, Tovey – Tinkler, Khumalo*, Buthelezi, Makalakalane (Mkhalele 52) – Augustine, Maponyane (Motaung 74).
* *Khumalo sent off, 58min.*
Cameroon: Abang (Boukar 18) – Moukoko, Agbo, Nder, Mimboe – Imandi, Mbouh, Lewono, Feutmba – Milla, Maboang (Ewane 68).

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
South Africa	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Ghana	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Cameroon	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Dec 5 = Nairobi – East Central Africa Cup gp A
TANZANIA 1 (Saidi Mwamba 7)
ERITREA 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 2,000.

Dec 5 = East Central Africa Cup gp B
KENYA 0
UGANDA 1 (Katerega 33)
HT: 0-1. Att: 4,000.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Dec 7 = Riyadh – friendly
SAUDI ARABIA 0
POLAND 2 (Dembinski 36, Lapinski 38)
HT: 0-2. Att: 2,000. Ref: Al-Shamar (SAr)
S Arabia: Al-Sadiq – Ramzi, Waleed, Abdullah, Ahmed, Loiy, Al-Naseeb, Abdulaziz, Hamzah, Yossif, Obeed.
Poland: Szczesny (Wozniak 46) – Wojtala, Lapinski, Waldoch, P Swierczewski, Gesior, Wieszczycki (Czerwiec 61), Czereszewski (Baluszynski 71), Sokolowski (Stolarczyk 61), Kobylanski, Dembinski (Rzasa 46).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Dec 8 = Nairobi – East Central Africa Cup third place play-off
KENYA 1 (Benjamin Nyangweso 63)
ERITREA 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 8,000.

Dec 8 = Nairobi – East Central Africa Cup Final
TANZANIA 2 (Juma Amir 14, Saidi Mwamba 40)
UGANDA 2 (Idd Batambuze 47, George Semogerere 88)
HT: 2-0. Att: 15,000.
Tanzania won 4-3 on pens

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Dec 10 = Riyadh – friendly
SAUDI ARABIA 1 (Al-Jaber 45)
POLAND 2 (Baluszynski 11 pen, Rzasa 57)
HT: 1-1. Att: 4,000. Ref: Al-Omer (SAr)
S Arabia: Al-Sadiq – Al-Zuhair (Moosa 63), Al-Holeni, Madani, Horeis, Al-Subaiey (Al-Mutlaq 46), Saleh, Obeid, Al-Dosari (Al-Hayei 46), Naseed (Musad 63), Al-Jaber, Hadi.
Poland: Szczesny (Wozniak 63) – Wojtala, Lapinski, Waldoch, P Swierczewski (Stolarczyk 78), Gesior, Wieszczycki, Czereszewski, Sokolowski, Baluszynski (Czerwiec 70), Dembinski (Rzasa 46).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Dec 11 = Fullerton, Calif – friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Kirovski 90)
HONDURAS 1 (Velasquez 68)
HT: 0-0. Att: 1,094. Ref: Angeles (US)
US: Hahnemann – Agoos, Balboa, Doyle, Caligiuri (Ibsen 67), Burns (Bravo 82), Sorber, Michallik (Lozzano 46), Henderson, Dunn (Vargas 46), Kirovski.
Honduras: Benegas – Peri (N Espinoza 71), Cerrano, Martinez, Membreno, J C Espinoza, Sosa, Santa Maria, Fernandez, Velasquez, Flores.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Dec 13 = Trabzon, Turkey – Euro Chp gp 1
AZERBAIJAN 0
FRANCE 2 (Papin 24, Loko 55)
HT: 0-1. Att: 4,000. Ref: Pedersen (Nor)
Azerbaijan: Jidkov (Gassanov 41) – Alazerdiev, Varabzade, Gadarov, Agaev – Abuchev, Asadov (Rzaiev 78), Kasumov (Kerimov 78), Diniev, Gusseinov – Alekperov.
France: Lama – Angloma, Blanc, Roche, Di Meco – Desailly (Ferri 71), Cantona, Le Guen – Loko, Papin, Pedros (Martins 76).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Dec 14 = Tirana – Euro Chp gp 7
ALBANIA 0
GEORGIA 1 (Arveladze 17)
HT: 0-1. Att: 15,000. Ref: Molnar (Hun)
Albania: Strakosha – Lekbello (Malko 46), Xhumba, Demollari, Vata (Shulku 30), Pano, Rrakili, Fortuzi, Kacaj, Kola, Zmijani.
Georgia: Devadze – Revichvili, Koudinov, Chelia, Tchikuradze, Gogitchaichvili (Djichkaran 62), Inalichvili, Gogritchiani, Ketsbaia, Kingladze, C Arveladze (Djamarauli 30).

Dec 14 = Helsinki – Euro Chp gp 8
FINLAND 4 (Paatelainen 24, 30, 85, 90)
SAN MARINO 1 (Della Valle 34)
HT: 2-1. Att: 3,140. Ref: Albrecht (Ger)
Finland: Laukkanen – Kanerva – Makela, Eriksson – Helin (Myyry 74), Ukkonen, Litmanen, Hjelm, Lindberg – Paatelainen, Sumiala.
San Marino: Benedettini – Guerra – C Canti, P Manzaroli, Gobbi, Gennari – Della Valle, Bonini, Gasperoni – Bacciocchi (Peverani 89), Mularoni (Gualtieri 59).

Dec 14 = Rotterdam – Euro Chp gp 5
HOLLAND 5 (Mulder 6, Roy 16, Jonk 39, R De Boer 51, Seedorf 90)
LUXEMBOURG 0
HT: 3-0. Att: 30,000. Ref: Roduit (Swi)
Holland: De Goey – Blind, F De Boer, Valckx, Winter (Van Hooijdonk 74), Jonk, Mulder (Seedorf 46), Numan, Overmars, R De Boer, Roy.
Luxembourg: Koch – Ferron, Strasser, Birsens, Wolf, Groff, Hellers, Weis, Holtz, Cardoni, Langers (Theis 60).

Dec 14 = Tel-Aviv – Euro Chp gp 1
ISRAEL 1 (Rosenthal 83)
ROMANIA 1 (Lacatus 70)
HT: 0-0. Att: 42,500. Ref: Martin Navarrete (Spa)
Israel: Ginsburg – Balbul, Glam, Hazan, A Harazi, Klinger, Levy (Zohar 75), Revivo, Berkowitz, R Harazi (Shelah 88), Rosenthal.
Romania: Stelea – Petrescu, Prodan, Belodedici, Lupescu, Popescu, Lacatus, Dumitrescu (Galca 73), Selymes, Hagi, Munteanu (Vladoiu 52).

Dec 14 = Valletta – Euro Chp gp 5
MALTA 0
NORWAY 1 (Fjortoft 10)
HT: 0-1. Att: 3,000. Ref: Beschin (Ita)
Malta: Cluett – Saliba (Scerri 82), J Camilleri, Woods, S Vella, Buttigieg, Busuttil, Brincat, Laferla, Gregory, Carabott (Buhagiar 80).
Norway: Grodaas – Halle, Bjoernebye, Berg, Johnsen, Mykland, Flo, Rushfeldt (Jakobsen 82), Rekdal, Fjortoft, Bohinen (Solbakken 80).

Dec 14 = Chisinau – Euro Chp gp 7
MOLDOVA 0
GERMANY 3 (Kirsten 6, Klinsmann 38, Matthaus 72)
HT: 0-2. Att: 22,000. Ref: Van Vliet (Hol)
Moldova: Kosselev – S Stroenco, Pogorelov, Belous, Secu, Rebeja (Testimetsanu 81), Curtianu, Spiridon, Nani, Oprea (A Stroenko 58), Clescenco.
Germany: Kopke – Matthaus – Berthold, Helmer – Reuter, Hassler, Sammer, Weber, Moller (Kuntz 79) – Kirsten (Strunz 70), Klinsmann.

Dec 14 = Istanbul – Euro Chp gp 3
TURKEY 1 (Recep Cetin 40)
SWITZERLAND 2 (Koller 7, Bickel 16)
HT: 1-2. Att: 30,00. Ref: Craciunescu (Rom)
Turkey: Rustu – Recep, Bulent K, Gokhan K, Ogun, Abdullah, Cengiz (Ilker 46), Saffet, Hakan, Oguz, Arif (Sergen 75).
Switzerland: Pascolo – Hottiger, Thuler, Herr, Geiger, Koller, A Sutter, Ohrel, Subiat (Grassi 76), Sforza, Bickel (Bonvin 64).

Dec 14 = Cardiff – Euro Chp gp 7
WALES 0
BULGARIA 3 (Ivanov 5, Kostadinov 15, Stoichkov 51)
HT: 0-2. Att: 20,000. Ref: Sundell (Swe).
Wales: Southall – Bowen, Aizlewood, V.Jones, Coleman, Melville, Phillips, Saunders, Rush, Hughes, Speed.
Bulgaria: Mikhailov – Kremenliev, Ivanov, Tzvetanov, Yankov, Iordanov, Kostadinov (Kiriakov 73), Stoichkov, Penev (Sirakov 73), Balakov, Lechkov.

Dec 14 = Los Angeles – friendly
MEXICO 5 (Hermosillo 21, 37, C Suarez 43, R Ramirez 60, Galindo 71 pen)
HUNGARY 1 (Klausz 3)
HT: 3-1. Att: 20,000. Ref: Sabillon (Hon)
Mexico: Campos (Navarro 63) – J Rodriguez, Ambriz, Gutierrez (Vidrio 75), C Suarez – Bernal, Garcia Aspe, Del Olmo, R Ramirez – Hermosillo, Alves Zague (Salvador 75).
Hungary: Hajdu (Brockhauser 5) – Berczy, Vaczi (Mracsko 71), Banfi – Simon, Kopzma, Veber (Illes 63), Duro (Sandor 84), Szlezak – K Kovacs (Hamar 46), Klausz.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Dec 16 = Sfax – friendly
TUNISIA 1 (Benchaouch 55)
ALGERIA 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 25,000.
Tunisia: Salhi – M Trabelsi, S Trabelsi, S Jaballah, Fekih – Beya, Ghorba, Chaabane, Fitouri – Ouarda (Kouki 46), Benchaouch.
Algeria: Hamened – Hamdanu (Kerris 68), Zerrouki (Azaiez 60), Lazizi (Belatoui 55), Amrouche – Bekhti, Hadj Adlane (Kaoua 55), Meftah – Tasfaout (Zouani 76), Kaci Said, Lounici (Maatem 70).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Dec 17 = Riyadh – friendly
SAUDI ARABIA 1 (Khalid Moussad 37 pen)
COSTA RICA 3 (Gomez 31, 48, 82)
HT: 1-1. Att: 15,000.
S Arabia: Al-Sadiq – Waled, Motk, Al-Soukeikman, Al-Dosari – Hamzah, Al-Sebe, Mousaib, Moussad – Al-Jaber, Hadi.
C Rica: Barrantes – Rodriguez (Chavarria 75), Camacho, Angulo, Berry – Solis, Davis, Guthrie (Soto 80), Paniagua – Gomez (Wanchope 85), Jara.

Dec 17 = Brussels – Euro Chp gp 2
BELGIUM 1 (Degryse 6)
SPAIN 4 (Hierro 29, Donato 56 pen, Julio Salinas 68, Luis Enrique 89)
HT: 1-1. Att: 21,000. Ref: Cakar (Tur)
Belgium: Preud'homme – Genaux, Albert, Crasson, Smidts, Boffin, Van der Elst, Bettagno (Verheyen 46), Degryse, Staelens, De Bilde.
Spain: Zubizarreta – Belsue, Abelardo, Alkorta, Nadal, Hierro, Luis Enrique, Guerrero (Salvador 56), Donato, Sergi, Julio Salinas (Goikoetxea 69).

Dec 17 = Skopje – Euro Chp gp 2
MACEDONIA 3 (Bosko Durovski 15, 26, 90)
CYPRUS 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 16,000. Ref: Strampe (Ger)
Macedonia: Celeski – Stanojkovic, Janevski*, Najdoski, Stojkovski – Markovski, Babunski (Jovanovski 72), D Djurovski, Boskovski (Serafimovski 86) – M Djurovski, T Micevski.
* *Janevski sent off, 87min.*
Cyprus: M Christofi – Kalotheou, M Charalambous, Ioannou, E Christofi – Stefani, Ch Charalambous, Fasuliotis, Savides (Malikkos 67) – Gogic, Sotiriou (S Andreou 78).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Dec 18 = Kaiserslautern – Euro Chp gp 7
GERMANY 2 (Matthaus 8 pen, Klinsmann 17)
ALBANIA 1 (Prakli 58)
HT: 2-0. Att: 20,310. Ref: Christensen (Den)
Germany: Kopke – Matthaus, Berthold, Helmer, Weber, Reuter, Sammer, Hassler (Strunz 77), Moller, Kirsten (Kuntz 59), Klinsmann.
Albania: Strakosha – Xhumba, Dema, Kajac, Shulka, Zmijani, Demollari, Malki, Bellai, Rraklli, Fortuzi (Zalla 62).

Dec 18 = Athens – Euro Chp gp 8
GREECE 1 (Apostolakis 18pen)
SCOTLAND 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 20,000. Ref: Blankenstein (Hol).
Greece: Atmatzides – Apostolakis, Kassapis, Vlachos, Kalitzakis, Tsaluhidis, Zagobakis, Nioplias (Karasavidis 88), Machlas, Tursunidis, Alexandris (Marangos 72).
Scotland: Goram (Leighton 77) – McKimmie, Boyd, McCall, Hendry, McLaren, McGinlay, McKinley (Spencer 46), Ferguson, McAllister, Collins.

Dec 18 = Lisbon – Euro Chp gp 6
PORTUGAL 8 (Domingos Oliveira 2, 11, Oceano 44, Joao Pinto 57, Fernando Couto 73, Folha 74, Alves 75, 79)
LIECHTENSTEIN 0
HT: 3-0. Att: 32,000. Ref: Pucek (Cze)
Portugal: Vitor Baia – Joao Pinto, Paulinho Santos, Oceano, Fernando Couto, Figo, Vitor Paneira (Alves 57), Joao Vieira Pinto (Secretario 70), Domingos Oliveira, Rui Costa, Folha.
Liechtenstein: Heeb – Telser, Hefti, W Ospelt, R Moser, Hilti, H Zech, J Ritter (R Oehri 70), Heidegger, M Frick, Hasler (C Matt 60).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Dec 21 = Pescara – friendly
ITALY 3 (Crippa 44, Lombardo 55, Apolloni 85)
TURKEY 1 (Tolunay 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Benkoe (Aus)
Italy: Pagliuca (Bucci 46) – Carnasciali (Negro 54), Carboni, Di Matteo, Apolloni, Minotti, Lombardo, Baggio (Berti 71), Crippa, Zola (Casiraghi 86), Signori.
Turkey: Sanver – Recep, Bulent (Mutlu 57), Cengiz, Ogun, Abdullah, Ilker (Ertugrul 66), Tolunay, Hami, Oguz, Arif (Suat 59).

Dec 21 = Buenos Aires – friendly
ARGENTINA 1 (Hugo Perez 78)
ROMANIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Guerrero (Chi)
Argentina: Bossio – Zanetti, Ayala, Fabbri, Arruabarrena – Escudero (Flores 68), Hugo Perez, Bassedas, Espina (Lopez 57) – Ortega (Gallardo 80), Rambert.
Romania: Prunea – Zegrean (Lutu 86), Papura, Gabriel Popescu, Chirita – Matei, Cristescu, Vladdiu (Turt 69), Craioveanu (Cirstera 90) – Stinga, Stefan.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Dec 23 = Porto Alegre – friendly
BRAZIL 2 (Viola 27, Branco 66)
YUGOSLAVIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Mocelin (Bra)
Brazil: Zetti – Jorginho, Aldair, Marcio Santos, Branco – Dunga, Cesar Sampaio, Zinho – Marques (Savio 80), Viola, Ronaldo (Marcelinho 72).
Yugoslavia: Pandurovic (Kovic 85) – Komljenovic (Saula 72), Brnovic, Jugovic, Djukic – Dubajic (Dorovic 60), Stojkovic, Mihajlovic (Nad 60), Jokanovic (Goveragica 76) – Savicevic, Mijatovic (Milosevic 64).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Dec 27 = Buenos Aires – friendly
ARGENTINA 1 (Rambert 21)
YUGOSLAVIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Nieves (Uru)
Argentina: Bossio – Zanetti, Ayala, Fabbri, Arruabarrena, Escudero, Perez, Bassedas, Espina (Lopez 68), Rambert, Ortega.
Yugoslavia: Pandurovic – Komljenovic, Djukic, Brnovic, Djorodic, Jokanovic, Savicevic, Stojkovic, Jugovic, Mijatovic (Kovbacevic), Mihajlovic*.
* *Mihajlovic sent off.*

EURO '96

GROUP 1

04.09.94 Israel v Poland ... 2-1
07.09.94 Slovakia v France ... 0-0
07.09.94 Romania v Azerbaijan ... 3-0
08.10.94 France v Romania ... 0-0
12.10.94 Israel v Slovakia ... 2-2
12.10.94 Poland v Azerbaijan ... 1-0
12.11.94 Romania v Slovakia ... 3-2
16.11.94 Poland v France ... 0-0
16.11.94 Azerbaijan v Israel ... 0-2
13.12.94 Azerbaijan v France ... 0-2
14.12.94 Israel v Romania ... 1-1
29.03.95 Romania v Poland
29.03.95 Israel v France
29.03.95 Slovakia v Azerbaijan
25.04.95 Poland v Israel
26.04.95 France v Slovakia
26.04.95 Azerbaijan v Romania
07.06.95 Poland v Slovakia
07.06.95 Romania v Israel
16.08.95 France v Poland
16.08.95 Azerbaijan v Slovakia
06.09.95 France v Azerbaijan
06.09.95 Slovakia v Israel
06.09.95 Poland v Romania
11.10.95 Romania v France
11.10.95 Israel v Azerbaijan
11.10.95 Slovakia v Poland
15.11.95 Slovakia v Romania
15.11.95 Azerbaijan v Poland
15.11.95 France v Israel

GROUP 2

07.09.94 Cyprus v Spain ... 1-2
07.09.94 Macedonia v Denmark ... 1-1
07.09.94 Belgium v Armenia ... 2-0
08.10.94 Armenia v Cyprus ... 0-0
12.10.94 Denmark v Belgium ... 3-1
12.10.94 Macedonia v Spain ... 0-2
16.11.94 Belgium v Macedonia ... 1-1
16.11.94 Spain v Denmark ... 3-0
16.11.94 Cyprus v Armenia ... 2-0
17.12.94 Belgium v Spain ... 1-4
17.12.94 Macedonia v Cyprus ... 3-0
29.03.95 Spain v Belgium
29.03.95 Cyprus v Denmark
26.04.95 Armenia v Spain
26.04.95 Belgium v Cyprus
26.04.95 Denmark v Macedonia
10.05.95 Armenia v Macedonia
07.06.95 Denmark v Cyprus
07.06.95 Macedonia v Belgium
07.06.95 Spain v Armenia
16.08.95 Armenia v Denmark
06.09.95 Belgium v Denmark
06.09.95 Spain v Cyprus
06.09.95 Macedonia v Armenia
07.10.95 Armenia v Belgium
11.10.95 Denmark v Spain
11.10.95 Cyprus v Macedonia
15.11.95 Spain v Macedonia
15.11.95 Cyprus v Belgium
15.11.95 Denmark v Armenia

GROUP 3

07.09.94 Iceland v Sweden ... 0-1
07.09.94 Hungary v Turkey ... 2-2
12.10.94 Turkey v Iceland ... 5-0
12.10.94 Switzerland v Sweden ... 4-2
16.11.94 Switzerland v Iceland ... 1-0
16.11.94 Sweden v Hungary ... 2-0
14.12.94 Turkey v Switzerland ... 1-2
29.03.95 Turkey v Sweden
29.03.95 Hungary v Switzerland
26.04.95 Hungary v Sweden
26.04.95 Switzerland v Turkey
01.06.95 Sweden v Iceland
11.06.95 Iceland v Hungary
16.08.95 Iceland v Switzerland
06.09.95 Sweden v Switzerland
06.09.95 Turkey v Hungary
11.10.95 Switzerland v Hungary
11.10.95 Iceland v Turkey
11.11.95 Hungary v Iceland
15.11.95 Sweden v Turkey

GROUP 4

04.09.94 Estonia v Croatia ... 0-2
07.09.94 Slovenia v Italy ... 1-1
07.09.94 Ukraine v Lithuania ... 0-2
08.10.94 Estonia v Italy ... 0-2
09.10.94 Croatia v Lithuania ... 2-0
12.10.94 Ukraine v Slovenia ... 0-0
13.11.94 Ukraine v Estonia ... 3-0
16.11.94 Slovenia v Lithuania ... 1-2
16.11.94 Italy v Croatia ... 1-2
25.03.95 Italy v Estonia
25.03.95 Croatia v Ukraine
29.03.95 Slovenia v Estonia
29.03.95 Ukraine v Italy
29.03.95 Lithuania v Croatia
26.04.95 Lithuania v Italy
26.04.95 Croatia v Slovenia
26.04.95 Estonia v Ukraine
07.06.95 Lithuania v Slovenia
11.06.95 Estonia v Slovenia
11.06.95 Ukraine v Croatia
16.08.95 Estonia v Lithuania
03.09.95 Croatia v Estonia
06.09.95 Italy v Slovenia
06.09.95 Lithuania v Ukraine
08.10.95 Croatia v Italy
11.10.95 Slovenia v Ukraine
11.10.95 Lithuania v Estonia
11.11.95 Italy v Ukraine
15.11.95 Slovenia v Croatia
15.11.95 Italy v Lithuania

GROUP 5

06.09.94 Czech Rep v Malta ... 6-1
07.09.94 Luxembourg v Holland ... 0-4
07.09.94 Norway v Byelorussia ... 1-0
12.10.94 Malta v Czech Rep ... 0-0
12.10.94 Byelorussia v Luxembourg ... 2-0
12.10.94 Norway v Holland ... 1-1
16.11.94 Byelorussia v Norway ... 0-4
16.11.94 Holland v Czech Rep ... 0-0
14.12.94 Malta v Norway ... 0-1
14.12.94 Holland v Luxembourg ... 5-0
22.02.95 Malta v Luxembourg
29.03.95 Czech Rep v Byelorussia
29.03.95 Luxembourg v Norway
29.03.95 Holland v Malta
26.04.95 Byelorussia v Malta
26.04.95 Czech Rep v Holland
26.04.95 Norway v Luxembourg
07.06.95 Byelorussia v Holland
07.06.95 Luxembourg v Czech Rep
07.06.95 Norway v Malta
16.08.95 Norway v Czech Rep
06.09.95 Czech Rep v Norway
06.09.95 Luxembourg v Malta
06.09.95 Holland v Byelorussia
07.10.95 Byelorussia v Czech Rep
11.10.95 Malta v Holland
11.10.95 Luxembourg v Byelorussia
12.11.95 Malta v Byelorussia
15.11.95 Czech Rep v Luxembourg
15.11.95 Holland v Norway

GROUP 6

20.04.94 N. Ireland v Liechtenstein ... 4-1
07.09.94 Liechtenstein v Austria ... 0-4
07.09.94 N. Ireland v Portugal ... 1-2
07.09.94 Latvia v Rep. Ireland ... 0-3
09.10.94 Latvia v Portugal ... 1-3
12.10.94 Austria v N. Ireland ... 1-2
12.10.94 Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein ... 4-0
13.11.94 Portugal v Austria ... 1-0
15.11.94 Liechtenstein v Latvia ... 0-1
16.11.94 N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland ... 0-4
18.12.94 Portugal v Liechtenstein ... 8-0
29.03.95 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland
29.03.95 Austria v Latvia
26.04.95 Rep. Ireland v Portugal
26.04.95 Latvia v N. Ireland
26.04.95 Austria v Liechtenstein
03.06.95 Portugal v Latvia
03.06.95 Liechtenstein v Rep. Ireland
07.06.95 N. Ireland v Latvia
11.06.95 Rep. Ireland v Austria
15.08.95 Liechtenstein v Portugal
16.08.95 Latvia v Austria
03.09.95 Portugal v N. Ireland
06.09.95 Austria v Rep. Ireland
06.09.95 Latvia v Liechtenstein
11.10.95 Rep. Ireland v Latvia
11.10.95 Austria v Portugal
11.10.95 Liechtenstein v N. Ireland
15.11.95 Portugal v Rep. Ireland
15.11.95 N. Ireland v Austria

GROUP 7

07.09.94 Wales v Albania ... 2-0
07.09.94 Georgia v Moldova ... 0-1
12.10.94 Moldova v Wales ... 3-2
12.10.94 Bulgaria v Georgia ... 2-0
16.11.94 Albania v Germany ... 1-2
16.11.94 Georgia v Wales ... 5-0
16.11.94 Bulgaria v Moldova ... 4-1
14.12.94 Wales v Bulgaria ... 0-3
14.12.94 Moldova v Germany ... 0-3
14.12.94 Albania v Georgia ... 0-1
18.12.94 Germany v Albania ... 2-1
29.03.95 Georgia v Germany
29.03.95 Bulgaria v Wales
29.03.95 Albania v Moldova
26.04.95 Germany v Wales
26.04.95 Moldova v Bulgaria
26.04.95 Georgia v Albania
07.06.95 Bulgaria v Germany
07.06.95 Wales v Georgia
07.06.95 Moldova v Albania
06.09.95 Germany v Georgia
06.09.95 Wales v Moldova
06.09.95 Albania v Bulgaria
07.10.95 Bulgaria v Albania
08.10.95 Germany v Moldova
11.10.95 Wales v Germany
11.10.95 Georgia v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Germany v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Albania v Wales
15.11.95 Moldova v Georgia

GROUP 8

07.09.94 Finland v Scotland ... 0-2
07.09.94 Faroe Islands v Greece ... 1-5
12.10.94 Scotland v Faroe Islands ... 5-1
12.10.94 Greece v Finland ... 4-0
12.10.94 Russia v San Marino ... 4-0
16.11.94 Scotland v Russia ... 1-1
16.11.94 Greece v San Marino ... 2-0
16.11.94 Finland v Faroe Islands ... 5-0
14.12.94 Finland v San Marino ... 4-1
18.12.94 Greece v Scotland ... 1-0
29.03.94 Russia v Scotland
29.03.95 San Marino v Finland
26.04.95 San Marino v Scotland
26.04.95 Greece v Russia
26.04.95 Faroe Islands v Finland
06.05.95 Russia v Faroe Islands
25.05.95 Faroe Islands v San Marino
07.06.95 Faroe Islands v Scotland
07.06.95 San Marino v Russia
11.06.95 Finland v Greece
16.08.95 Scotland v Greece
16.08.95 Finland v Russia
06.09.95 Scotland v Finland
06.09.95 Faroe Islands v Russia
06.09.95 San Marino v Greece
11.10.95 Russia v Greece
11.10.95 San Marino v Faroe Islands
15.11.95 Scotland v San Marino
15.11.95 Russia v Finland
15.11.95 Greece v Faroe Islands

AFRICA

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

- *Nigeria qualify as holders*
- *South Africa qualify as hosts*

GROUP 1

04.09.94 Zaire v Malawi ... 1-1
04.09.94 Zimbabwe v Lesotho ... 5-0
15.10.94 Malawi v Zimbabwe ... 3-1
16.10.94 Cameroon v Zaire ... 1-0
13.11.94 Lesotho v Cameroon ... 2-0
13.11.94 Zimbabwe v Zaire ... 2-1
08.01.95 Cameroon v Malawi ... 0-0
08.01.95 Zaire v Lesotho ... 3-0
23.01.95 Lesotho v Malawi
23.01.95 Zimbabwe v Cameroon
08.04.95 Malawi v Zaire
09.04.95 Lesotho v Zimbabwe
23.04.95 Zaire v Cameroon
23.04.95 Zimbabwe v Malawi
04.06.95 Cameroon v Lesotho
04.06.95 Zaire v Zimbabwe
15.07.95 Malawi v Cameroon
16.07.95 Lesotho v Zaire
29.07.95 Malawi v Lesotho
30.07.95 Cameroon v Zimbabwe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe	3	2	0	1	8	4	4
Malawi	3	1	2	0	4	2	4
Zaire	4	1	1	2	5	4	3
Cameroon	3	1	1	1	1	2	3
Lesotho	3	1	0	2	2	8	2

- *Swaziland withdrew*

GROUP 2

03.09.94 Senegal v Mauritania ... 0-0
04.09.94 Guinea-Bissau v Tunisia ... 1-3
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
04.09.94 Liberia v Togo ... 1-0
14.10.94 Mauritania v Guinea-Bissau ... 1-1
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
16.10.94 Togo v Senegal ... 2-0
11.11.94 Mauritania v Liberia ... 1-1
13.11.94 Guinea-Bissau v Senegal ... 1-4
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
13.11.94 Tunisia v Togo ... 1-1
07.01.95 Senegal v Tunisia ... 0-0
08.01.95 Togo v Mauritania ... 0-0
23.01.95 Liberia v Senegal
23.01.95 Tunisia v Mauritania
12.02.95 Tunisia v Liberia
07.04.95 Togo v Liberia
22.04.95 Senegal v Togo
23.04.95 Liberia v Tunisia
04.06.96 Liberia v Mauritania
04.06.95 Togo v Tunisia
14.07.95 Mauritania v Togo
16.07.95 Tunisia v Senegal
28.07.95 Mauritania v Tunisia
29.07.95 Senegal v Liberia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Togo	4	1	2	1	3	2	4
Liberia	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Mauritania	3	0	3	0	1	1	3
Tunisia	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Senegal	3	0	2	1	0	2	2

- *Guinea-Bissau withdrew*

GROUP 3

04.09.94 Congo v Gambia ... 1-1
04.09.94 Ghana v Sierra Leone ... 4-1
16.10.94 Niger v Ghana ... 1-5
16.10.94 Sierra Leone v Congo ... 3-2
12.11.94 Gambia v Ghana ... 1-2
13.11.94 Niger v Sierra Leone ... 4-2
07.01.95 Sierra Leone v Gambia ... 2-0
08.01.95 Congo v Niger ... 3-1
23.01.95 Ghana v Congo
23.01.95 Niger v Gambia
09.04.95 Gambia v Congo
09.04.95 Sierra Leone v Ghana
23.04.95 Congo v Sierra Leone
23.04.95 Ghana v Niger
04.06.95 Ghana v Gambia
04.06.95 Sierra Leone v Niger
16.07.95 Gambia v Sierra Leone
16.07.95 Niger v Congo
30.07.95 Congo v Ghana
30.07.95 Gambia v Niger

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	3	3	0	0	11	3	6
Sierra Leone	4	2	0	2	8	10	4
Congo	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Niger	3	1	0	2	6	10	2
Gambia	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

- *Central African Republic withdrew*

GROUP 4

03.09.94 Tanzania v Uganda ... 4-0
04.09.94 Ethiopia v Algeria ... 0-0
04.09.94 Sudan v Egypt ... 0-0
14.10.94 Algeria v Sudan ... 1-1
14.10.94 Egypt v Tanzania ... 5-1
15.10.94 Uganda v Ethiopia ... 4-1
11.11.94 Egypt v Ethiopia ... 5-0
12.11.94 Tanzania v Sudan ... 2-0
12.11.95 Uganda v Algeria ... 1-1
07.01.95 Sudan v Uganda ... 3-1
08.01.95 Algeria v Egypt ... 1-0
08.01.95 Ethiopia v Tanzania ... 1-0
22.01.95 Tanzania v Algeria
22.01.95 Uganda v Egypt
23.01.95 Ethiopia v Sudan
07.04.95 Algeria v Ethiopia
07.04.95 Egypt v Sudan
08.04.95 Uganda v Tanzania
22.04.95 Tanzania v Egypt
23.04.95 Ethiopia v Uganda
23.04.95 Sudan v Algeria
02.06.95 Algeria v Uganda
04.06.95 Ethiopia v Egypt
04.06.95 Sudan v Tanzania
14.07.95 Egypt v Algeria
15.07.95 Tanzania v Ethiopia
15.07.95 Uganda v Sudan
28.07.95 Algeria v Tanzania
28.07.95 Egypt v Uganda
30.07.95 Sudan v Ethiopia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	4	2	1	1	10	2	5
Algeria	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Tanzania	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
Sudan	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Ethiopia	4	1	1	2	2	9	3
Uganda	4	1	1	2	6	9	2

GROUP 5

04.09.94 Madagascar v Sth Africa ... 0-1
Result nulified, Madagascar withdrew
16.10.94 South Africa v Mauritius ... 1-0
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
13.11.94 Gabon v Mauritius ... 3-0
13.11.94 Zambia v South Africa ... 1-1
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
20.11.94 Gabon v Zambia ... 2-1
10.01.95 Mauritius v Zambia
09.04.95 Zambia v Gabon
04.06.95 Mauritius v Gabon
16.07.95 Zambia v Mauritius

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gabon	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Zambia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Mauritius	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

- *Madagascar withdrew*
- *Seychelles withdrew*
- *South Africa withdrew after being named as hosts for the finals*

GROUP 6

04.09.94 Angola v Namibia ... 2-0
04.09.94 Botswana v Guinea ... 0-1
04.09.94 Mali v Mozambique ... 2-1
15.10.94 Namibia v Mali ... 2-1
16.10.94 Guinea v Angola ... 3-1
16.10.94 Mozambique v Botswana ... 3-1
30.10.94 Mali v Guinea ... 2-0
13.11.94 Mali v Angola ... 0-0
13.11.94 Mozambique v Guinea ... 2-1
13.11.94 Namibia v Botswana ... 1-1
08.01.95 Angola v Mozambique ... 1-0
08.01.95 Botswana v Mali ... 1-3
08.01.95 Guinea v Namibia ... 3-0
23.01.95 Botswana v Angola
23.01.95 Mozambique v Namibia
09.04.95 Namibia v Angola
09.04.95 Guinea v Botswana
09.04.95 Mozambique v Mali
23.04.95 Angola v Guinea
23.04.95 Mali v Namibia
23.04.95 Botswana v Mozambique
04.06.95 Angola v Mali
04.06.95 Botswana v Namibia
04.06.95 Guinea v Mozambique
16.07.95 Mali v Botswana
16.07.95 Mozambique v Angola
16.07.95 Namibia v Guinea
30.07.95 Angola v Botswana
30.07.95 Guinea v Mali
30.07.95 Namibia v Mozambique

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mali	5	3	1	1	8	4	7
Guinea	5	3	0	2	8	5	6
Angola	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Mozambique	4	2	0	2	6	5	4
Namibia	4	1	1	2	3	7	3
Botswana	4	0	1	3	3	8	1

GROUP 7

04.09.94 Burkina Faso v Morocco ... 2-1
13.11.94 Morocco v Ivory Coast ... 1-0
23.01.95 Ivory Coast v Burkina Faso
09.04.95 Morocco v Burkina Faso
04.06.95 Ivory Coast v Morocco
30.07.95 Burkina Faso v Ivory Coast

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Morocco	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Ivory Coast	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

- *Benin withdrew*
- *Cape Verde Islands withdrew*
- *Equatorial Guinea withdrew*

JAPAN

J.LEAGUE SUNTORY CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

1ST LEG

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Kitazawa 35). **Att:** 42,316.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

2ND LEG

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Ramos 80)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0.
Att: 50,512.
Verdy won 2-0 on agg

EMPEROR'S CUP

(All matches played at neutral grounds)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

1ST ROUND

TOKYO GAS 2 (Harada, Amaral)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 0.

KAWASAKI STEEL 2 (Tamura, Takagi)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Hasegawa).

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 5 (Betinho, Teruo Iwamoto 2, Noguchi, Tasaka)
TOA KENSETSU 1 (Jorginho).

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Aldrovani)
PJM FUTURES 0.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Diaz, Kumura)
HOKURIKU DENRYOKU 0.

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Protasov 3)
HANNAN UNIV 1 (Mochiyama).

CEREZO OSAKA 1 (Marqinhos)
KOMAZAWA UNIV 0.

JEF UNITED 2 (Ordenewitz 2)
TOSHIBA 0.

KOKUSHIKAN UNIV 1 (Saito)
RITSUMEIKAN UNIV 0.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Moriyama, Stojkovic, Okayama)
NEC YAMAGATA 2 (Hirosawa 2).

KOFU CLUB 1 (Ozawa)
SAPPORO UNIV 0.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 3 (Mizuuchi, Fukuda, Asano)
SENSHU UNIV 1 (Arai).

VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Ishizuka, Tsunami, Kitazawa, Bismarck)
FUJIEDA BLUX 1 (Furube).

OTSUKA SEIYAKU 3 (Le, Sekiguchi, Mario)
JUBILO IWATA 1 (Date).

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Yanagimoto)
COSMO OIL 0.

KYOTO SANGA 3 (Kusaki, Angelo, Muller)
NIPPON DENSO 1 (Yanagisawa).

SOUTH AMERICA

INTERNATIONALS

Nov 16 = Santiago (Chile) – friendly
CHILE 0
ARGENTINA 3 (Rambert, Espina, Escudero)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** J. Torres (Col). **Att:** 20,000.
Chile: Marcelo Ramirez, Ardiman, Rojas, Margas, Miguel Ramirez (Silva), Parraguez (Mendoza), Lepe, Gonzalez (Tupper), Estay, Yanez, Barrera.
Argentina: Bossio, Zanetti, Ayala, Fabbri, Arruabarrena, Escudero (Vivas), Perez, Bassedas, Espina (Gallardo), Ortega (Carranza), Rambert (Flores).

1994 CONMEBOL CUP

1st Round — 1st Leg
Minerven (Ven) v Botafogo (Bra) 1-1
Spt Cristal (Peru) v Nacional (Ecu) 2-1
Univ. de Chile v O. Petrolero (Bol).....4-1
Huracan (Arg) v Cerro Cora (Par) 1-4
Penarol (Uru) v Danubio (Uru) 2-0
Gremio (Bra) v Sao Paulo (Bra) 0-0
Lanus (Arg) v San Lorenzo (Arg).....1-1
Corinthians (Bra) v Vitoria (Bra) 3-2

1st Round — 2nd Leg
Botafogo v Minerven.....0-0
Agg: 1-1, Minerven won 5-4 on pens
Nacional v Sporting Cristal 0-1
Sporting Cristal won 3-1 on agg
Oriente Petrolero v Univ. de Chile.....0-5
Universidad won 9-1 on agg
Cerro Cora v Huracan 1-2
Cerro Cora won 5-3 on agg
Danubio v Penarol.....1-0
Penarol won 2-1 on agg
Sao Paulo v Gremio 0-0
Agg: 0-0, Sao Paulo won 6-5 on pens
San Lorenzo v Lanus 2-2
Agg: 3-3, San Lorenzo won 4-2 on pens
Vitoria v Corinthians 1-1
Corinthians won 4-3 on agg

2nd Round — 1st Leg
Cerro Cora v Penarol 3-1
San Lorenzo v Univ. de Chile.....1-0
Sao Paulo v Sporting Cristal 3-1
Minerven v Corinthians 2-5

2nd Round — 2nd Leg
Penarol v Cerro Cora 6-1
Penarol won 7-4 on agg
Universidad de Chile v San Lorenzo..3-1
Universidad won 3-2 on agg
Sporting Cristal v Sao Paulo 0-0
Sao Paulo won 3-1 on agg
Corinthians v Minerven 6-0
Corinthians won 11-2 on agg

Semi-finals —1st Leg
29.11.94 Penarol v Univ. de Chile..2-0
02.12.94 Sao Paulo v Corinthians..4-3

Semi-finals — 2nd Leg
06.12.94 Univ. de Chile v Penarol..1-1
Penarol won 3-1 on agg
09.12.94 Corinthians v Sao Paulo..3-2
Agg: 6-6, Sao Paulo won 5-4 on pens

Final — 1st Leg
14.12.94 Sao Paulo v Penarol.....6-1

Final — 2nd Leg
21.12.94 Penarol v Sao Paulo 3-0
Sao Paulo won 6-4 on agg

SOUTH AMERICAN GAMES *(in Valencia, Venezuela)*

Final standings: 1 Colombia *(beat Venezuela 2-0 in final)*; 2 Venezuela; 3 Peru. *(only four participants).*

CONCACAF U-17 CHAMPIONSHIP

(In San Salvador, El Salvador)
Final round
Nov 9: Canada 1 Mexico 0, US 2 Costa Rica 1. ***Nov 11:*** US 1 Canada 0, Costa Rica 2 Mexico 0. ***Nov 13:*** Costa Rica 3 Canada 1, Mexico 2 US 1.

FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
US	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Canada	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Mexico	3	1	0	2	2	4	3

● *Top three qualify for U-17 World Championship – Mexico finished fourth because they lost to Canada.*

MILLER GENUINE DRAFT LE COPA DE ETIQUETA NEGRA (CUP-WINNERS CUP)

North Zone: CD Mexico 1 Necaxa 5.
Central zone A: Aurora beat Atletico Marte 2-1, 2-1.
Central Zone B: Real Maya beat Diriangen 0-1, 2-0.
Caribbean Zone — Prelim Rnd: Lambada beat RC St Joseph 1-0, 1-1.
Caribbean Zone — 1st Round: Lambada beat Malta Caribs 1-1, 2-1; Olympique de Morne beat SNL 1-0, 0-0.
Caribbean Zone — 2nd Round: Lambada beat Olym. de Moren 3-0, 1-0.
Semi-finals: Aurora 2 Real Maya 1, Necaxa 4 Lambada 1.
3rd Place: Real Maya 1 Lambada 0.
Final: Necaxa 3 Aurora 0.

ARGENTINA
National A Division — Opening Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	14	8	6	0	21	12	22
Velez Sarsfield	15	6	4	3	24	11	20
San Lorenzo	13	6	7	0	18	11	19
Argentinos Jun.	14	7	5	2	17	11	19
Lanus	13	6	4	3	12	9	16
Independiente	14	7	3	4	23	16	17
Newell's OB	13	4	7	2	15	11	15
Rosario Central	14	6	3	5	16	10	15
Banfield	14	5	4	5	14	10	14
Boca Juniors	13	3	7	3	17	15	13
Belgrano	14	4	5	5	16	15	13
Platense	14	4	5	5	16	18	13
Racing Club	14	5	3	6	10	14	13
Huracan	13	5	2	6	17	18	12
Gimnasia LP	13	3	6	4	13	16	12
FC Oeste	15	4	4	7	15	24	12
Talleres*	14	2	6	6	16	23	10
Dep. Mandiyu	14	1	6	7	17	25	8
Dep Espanol	14	2	3	9	11	21	7
Gimnasia Jujuy	14	2	2	10	6	21	6

** = forfeit 2pts at end of tournament*

BRAZIL
National Championship 2nd stage — 2nd round

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	TP
Guarani	8	5	2	1	11	5	12	24
Portuguesa	8	5	1	2	16	8	11	16
Fluminense	8	3	2	3	14	13	8	12
Internacional	8	2	3	3	4	5	7	14
Vasco	7	1	4	2	3	7	6	11
Gremio	8	2	1	5	6	12	5	12
Paysandu	8	1	2	5	2	11	4	10
Corinthians	8	1	2	5	6	16	4	16

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Botafogo	8	5	3	0	13	5	13	19
Santos	8	5	1	2	10	3	11	17
Sao Paulo	8	5	0	3	14	9	10	19
Bahia	8	3	4	1	10	6	10	18
Parana	7	3	2	2	9	8	8	12
Flamengo	8	2	3	3	5	9	7	11
Palmeiras	8	2	2	4	11	12	6	17
Sport Recife	8	1	2	5	5	10	4	14

● *In 2nd round teams played against those in other group*
NB: *TP = total points in both rounds*

Relegation Play-off

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bragantino	14	8	4	2	20	10	20
Atletico Mineiro	14	7	4	23	22	13	18
Vitoria	14	6	3	5	16	15	15
Criciuma	14	5	4	5	20	23	14
Uniao Sao Joao	14	4	5	5	16	18	13
Cruzeiro	14	5	2	7	14	20	12
Remo	14	4	4	6	13	19	12
Nautico	14	4	1	9	9	14	9

COLOMBIA
Final round semi-finals — final standings

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At. Nacional	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Indep. Medellin	6	2	3	1	5	3	7
Envigado	6	1	3	2	5	10	5
Deportivo Cali	6	0	4	2	5	7	4

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	6	5	0	1	9	6	10
Millonarios	6	3	0	3	13	8	6
Jun. Barranquilla	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
Once Caldas	6	1	1	4	3	10	3

● *Top two of each group in finals*

PERU
De-centralised Championship — final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spt Cristal*	30	24	3	3	86	19	53
Universitario	30	19	4	7	43	20	42
Alianza Lima	30	16	8	6	56	29	40
Leon de Huanuco	30	17	4	9	43	36	38
Dep. Sipesa	30	12	9	9	36	30	33
Dep. Municipal	30	13	6	11	39	37	32
Ciclista Lima	30	13	6	11	54	54	32
FBC Melgar	30	12	7	11	41	42	31
Aurich-Canana	30	12	6	12	35	35	30
Union Minas	30	10	8	12	32	42	28
Sport Boys	30	11	2	17	34	43	24
San Agustin	30	8	8	14	36	48	24
Cienciano	30	7	7	16	23	41	21
Alianza Sullana	30	8	5	17	38	58	21
Manucci Trujillo	30	6	8	16	34	44	20
Defensor Lima	30	2	9	19	25	68	13

** = total includes 2 bonus pts for winning pre-season tournament.*

Play-offs *(for second Libertadores Cup place)*
1st round: Melgar 1 Alianza Lima 0, Leon de Huanuco 0 Ciclista Lima 0, Deportivo Sipesa 1 Deportivo Municipal 1, Alianza Lima 2 Melgar 0, Ciclista Lima 2 Leon de Huanuco 2, Deportivo Municipal 2 Deportivo Sipesa 2.
2nd round: Alianza Lima 3 Leon de Huanuco 1, Universitario 1 Deportivo Sipesa 1, Alianza Lima 2 Universitario 1, Leon de Huanuco 2 Deportivo Sipesa 3.

Play-off table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	2	2	0	0	5	2	4
Dep. Sipesa	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Universitario*	2	0	1	1	2	3	2
Leon de Huanuco	2	0	0	2	6	3	0

** = Universitario bye to second round with one bonus point, for finishing runners-up in the league.*

BOLIVIA
National Championship — 2nd stage (final standings)
Group A: 1) Ciclon 16pts; 2) Wilsterman 14; 3) The Strongest, Guabira 12; 5) Blooming 11; 6) Metalsan 2.
Group B: 1) Bolivar 18; 2) Real Santa Cruz 15; 3) San Jose 14; 4) Independiente Petrolero 11; 5) Destroyers 10; 6) Oriente Petrolero 9.
● *Wilsterman, Real Santa Cruz, Independiente Petrolero, Bolivar, The Strongest & Guabira qualify for final rnd.*

VENEZUELA
National Championship — Preliminary groups
Western group: 1) Lara 16pts; 2) Trujillano 11; 3) El Vigia 9; 4) Unicol 6; 5) Maracaibo 5; 6) Univ. de los Andes 3.
Andes-Los Llanos Group: 1) Tachira 9; 2) Est. Merida 8; 3) Llaneros 6; 4) San Cristobal 5; 5) Zamora 3.
Central group: 1) Caracas FC 13; 2) Maritimo 12; 3) Italia 11; 4) Tuy 6; 5) Valencia 5; 6) Aragua 1.
South-eastern group: 1) Mineros 15; 2) Minerven 12; 3) Monagas 11; 4) Anzoategui 8; 5) Marinos 3; 6) Industriales 0.

CHILE
First Division
Four games to go: 1) Univ. Catolica, Univ. de Chile 42pts; 3) O'Higgins 34; 4) Colo Colo 30; 5) Cobreloa 29; 6) Yemuco, Union Espanola 27; 8) Everton 26; 9) Antofagasta, Atacama 25; 11) Coquimbo Unido, Palestino 22; 13) La Serena 20; 14) Osorno 18; 15) Cobresal 14; 16) Rangers 13.

PARAGUAY
First Division — 2nd round
Four games to go: 1) Olimpia 28pts; 2) Cerro Porteno 24; 3) Nacional 21; 4) Humaita, Sport Colombia, Guarani, Libertad 19; 8) Sportive Luqueno, Sol de America 18; 10) Cerro Porteno de Este 17; 11) Colegiales, Presidente Hayes 16; 13) River Plate 15; 14) 8 de Diciembre 14; 15) Cerro Cora 13; 16) 12 de Octubre, Boqueron 11; 18) Trinidense 10; 19) Guarani de Oviedo, Pettirossi 6.

ECUADOR
First Division — Final round
1) Emelec 11pts; 2) Barcelona 9l 3) Nacional 7.5; 4) Dep. Quito, Espoli 7; 6) Aucas 6 *(including bonus points — one match to go, but Emelec have one game in hand, Nacional two and Aucas one).*

MEXICO
First Division

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	13	8	4	1	23	5	20
America	12	7	4	1	37	18	18
UAG	12	2	5	5	15	21	9
Neza	12	3	1	8	17	28	7

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	12	5	4	3	30	16	14
Veracruz	12	5	3	4	18	18	13
Morelia	12	5	3	4	25	27	13
Tamaulipas	12	4	4	4	16	21	12
Atlante	12	3	4	5	14	24	10

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puebla	12	5	6	1	14	11	16
Guadalajara	12	6	3	3	25	17	15
Toluca	13	4	4	5	19	16	12
UNAM	12	5	2	5	18	19	12
Tampico-Madero	13	4	1	8	20	27	9

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	13	5	3	5	16	20	13
Monterrey	13	2	8	3	11	15	12
Leon	13	3	4	5	17	25	10
Santos	12	4	0	8	16	25	8

● *Top two of each group and two other teams with most points qualify for play-offs.*

GUATEMALA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Municipalidad	11	8	2	1	18
Comunicaciones	11	7	2	2	16
Aurora	11	5	3	3	13
Suchitepequez	11	6	0	5	12
Xelaju	11	4	4	3	12
Amatitlan	11	3	4	4	10
Izabal	11	3	4	4	10
Sacachispas	11	2	5	4	9
Coban Imperial	11	2	5	4	9
Escuintla	11	1	6	4	8
Mictlan	11	2	4	5	8
Chiquimulilla	11	2	3	6	7

COSTA RICA
First Division
After 17 games: 1) Saprissa 24pts; 2) Cartajines 22; 3) San Carlos, Herediano 21; 5) Turrialba, Alajuelense 17; 7) Perez Zeledon, Belen 16; 9) Ramonense 14; 10) Puntarenas 13; 11) Sagrada Familia 11; 12) Limon 10.

HONDURAS
First Division
After 6 games: 1) Olimpia 18pts; 2) Motagua 11; 3) Real Espana 10; 4) Broncos 9; 5) Real Maya 7; 6) Progreseno, Victoria 6; 8) Marathon 5; 9) Vida, Platense 4.

EL SALVADOR
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FAS*	14	8	4	2	25	10	22
Luis A. Firpo	13	7	6	0	19	8	20
Aguila*	14	4	7	3	26	16	17
Tiburones	14	4	7	3	15	14	15
Atletico Marte	12	4	6	2	17	14	14
El Roble	14	4	6	4	15	17	14
Baygon-Adet	14	4	4	6	20	21	12
Municipal Limeno	14	2	6	6	12	19	10
Alianza	13	2	5	6	15	17	9
Cojutepeque	14	1	5	8	10	38	7

** = 2 bonus pts*

1995 LIBERTADORES CUP

1st round

Group 1
(Argentina & Uruguay)
22.02.95 Independiente (A) v River Plate (A)
22.02.95 Penarol (Uru) v Cerro (Uru)
01.03.95 Independiente v Penarol
01.03.95 River Plate v Cerro
08.03.95 Cerro v Independiente
08.03.95 Penarol v River Plate
29.03.95 River Plate v Independiente
29.03.95 Cerro v Penarol
05.04.95 Penarol v Independiente
05.04.95 Cerro v River Plate
12.04.95 River Plate v Penarol
12.04.9 Independiente v Cerro

Group 2
(Paraguay & Venezuela)
15.02.95 Olimpia (Par) v Cerro Porteno (Par)
15.02.95 Trujillanos (Ven) v Caracas (Ven)
21.02.95 Olimpia v Caracas
24.02.95 Cerro Porteno v Caracas
28.02.95 Trujillanos v Olimpia
03.03.95 Caracas v Olimpia
22.03.95 Cerro Porteno v Olimpia
22.03.95 Caracas v Trujillanos
28.03.95 Trujillanos v Cerro Porteno
31.03.95 Caracas v Cerro Porteno
04.04.95 Olimpia v Trujillanos
07.04.95 Cerro Porteno v Trujillanos

Group 3
(Chile & Colombia)
15.02.95 Univ. de Chile v Univ. Catolica (Ch)
15.02.95 At. Nacional (Co) v Millonarios (Co)
21.02.95 Millonarios v Univ. Catolica
24.02.95 Atletico Nacional v Univ. Catolica
07.03.95 Atletico Nacional v Univ. d Chile
10.03.95 Millonarios v Univ. de Chile
15.03.95 Univ. Catolica v Univ. de Chile
15.03.95 Millonarios v Atletico Nacional
21.03.95 Univ. Catolica v Millonarios
24.03.95 Univ. de Chile v Millonarios
04.04.95 Univ. Catolica v Atletico Nacional
07.04.95 Univ. de Chile v Millonarios

Group 4
(Ecuador & Brazil)
22.02.95 Emelec (Ecu) v Nacional (Ecu)
22.02.95 Gremio (Bra) v Palmeiras (Bra)
07.03.95 Nacional v Gremio
10.03.95 Emelec v Gremio
14.03.95 Emelec v Palmeiras
17.03.95 Nacional v Palmeiras
22.03.95 Palmeiras v Gremio
23.03.95 Palmeiras v Gremio
28.03.95 Gremio v Emelec
31.03.95 Palmeiras v Emelec
04.04.95 Gremio v Nacional
07.04.95 Palmeiras v Nacional

Group 5
(Peru & Bolivia)
08.02.95 Bolivar (Bol) v Wilsterman (Bol)
08.02.95 Spt. Cristal (P) v Alianza Lima (P)
14.02.95 Wilsterman v Alianza Lima
17.02.95 Bolivar v Alianza Lima
21.02.95 Wilsterman v Sporting Cristal
24.02.95 Bolivar v Sporting Cristal
08.03.95 Alianza Lima v Sporting Cristal
08.03.95 Wilsterman v Bolivar
14.03.95 Alianza Lima v Wilsterman
17.03.95 Sporting Cristal v Wilsterman
21.03.95 Alianza Lima v Bolivar
24.03.95 Sporting Cristal v Bolivar

2nd round
1st leg: 26.04.95 – 2nd leg: 03.05.95

Quarter-finals
1st leg: 26.07.95 – 2nd leg: 02.08.95

Semi-finals
1st leg: 09.08.95 – 2nd leg: 16.08.95

Final
1st leg: 23.08.95 – 2nd leg: 30.08.95

● *TOP teams in each group qualify for the second round. Holders Velez Sarsfield of Argentina have a bye to the second round.*

Ranking as of December 19, 1994

No	Country	Pts	A	B
1	Brazil	67.18	0	+2
2	Spain	61.80	+3	+3
3	Sweden	61.41	-1	+6
4	Italy	61.35	-1	-2
5	Germany	61.25	-1	-4
6	Holland	59.91	0	+1
7	Switzerland	58.30	0	+5
8	Norway	58.11	+2	-4
9	Rep. Ireland	57.63	-1	+1
10	Argentina	56.67	-1	-2
11	Romania	56.61	0	+2
12	Nigeria	54.39	+1	+6
13	Russia	54.35	-1	+1
14	Denmark	54.26	0	-8
15	Mexico	53.68	+4	-1
16	Bulgaria	53.53	+1	+15
17	Colombia	52.74	-2	+4
18	England	52.48	-2	-7
19	France	52.30	-1	-4
20	Portugal	50.87	+1	0
21	Zambia	49.18	-1	+6
22	Egypt	48.25	+1	+4
23	US	47.84	+1	-1
24	Belgium	47.15	-2	+1
25	Ivory Coast	47.06	0	+8
26	Ghana	46.96	0	-11
27	Saudi Arabia	44.76	0	+11
28	Greece	44.55	+4	+6
29	Poland	43.86	+4	-1
30	Tunisia	43.61	-1	+2
31	Cameroon	43.56	-3	-8
32	Scotland	43.04	-2	-8
33	Morocco	42.98	-2	-3
34	Czech Rep.	41.49	0	new
35	South Korea	40.60	0	+6
36	Japan	40.41	0	+7
37	Uruguay	39.18	0	-20
38	Finland	38.67	+3	+7
39	Iceland	38.66	-1	+8
40	China	37.76	-1	+13
41	Wales	37.73	-1	-12
42	Israel	37.40	+8	+15
43	Slovakia	37.14	-1	new
44	Bolivia	37.03	-1	+14
45	North Ireland	36.79	-1	-6
46	UAE	36.54	+1	+5
47	Chile	36.29	-2	+8
48	Turkey	35.90	0	+4
49	Austria	35.56	-3	-13
50	Senegal	35.27	+1	+6
51	Zimbabwe	34.92	-2	-5
52	Mali	34.69	0	+18
53	Honduras	34.11	+1	-13
54	Kuwait	33.11	-1	+10
55	Ecuador	32.50	+2	-7
56	South Africa	32.19	+8	+39
57	Algeria	32.15	-2	-22
58	Australia	31.71	-2	-9
59	Lithuania	31.35	-1	+26
60	Qatar	31.21	0	-6
61	Hungary	31.04	-2	-11
62	Croatia	30.39	-1	+60
63	Canada	29.90	-1	-19
64	Gabon	28.23	+10	-4
65	Costa Rica	27.92	-2	-23
66	Guinea	27.12	-1	-3
67	Cyprus	26.70	+2	+5
68	Zaire	26.66	-2	+3
69	Latvia	26.27	-2	+17
70	Niger	26.19	-2	+11
71	Oman	26.01	+1	+26
72	Peru	25.72	+3	+1
73	Bahrain	25.71	-2	+5
74	Tanzania	25.44	+11	+24
75	Iran	25.28	-2	-16
76	Sierra Leone	24.09	-6	0
77	Ukraine	23.78	-1	+13
78	Uzbekistan	23.51	-1	new
79	Malta	23.51	0	+5
80	El Salvador	23.43	-1	-14
81	Slovenia	22.69	-1	+53
82	Malawi	22.64	-1	-15
83	Kenya	22.39	+7	-9
84	North Korea	21.50	-2	-22
85	Thailand	20.90	-2	-16
86	Togo	20.74	+2	+27
87	Paraguay	19.99	-3	-26
88	Iraq	19.73	-2	-23
89	Malaysia	19.29	-2	-10
90	Macedonia	19.22	+9	new
91	Trinidad	18.89	+3	-3
92	Georgia	18.45	+1	new
93	Uganda	18.01	+4	+1
94	Mozambique	17.95	-5	+10
95	Singapore	17.62	-4	-20
96	Jamaica	17.51	-4	-16
97	Burkina Faso	16.46	-2	+30
98	Hong Kong	15.46	0	+14
99	New Zealand	15.29	+1	-22
100	Albania	15.07	+9	-8

NOTES: *A = pts change between Nov-Dec 1994. B = pts change between Jan 1993-Jan 1994.*
● *Countries inactive since 1988 and new countries, which have not played yet, do not appear in the table.*
● *A full FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking will appear in next month's issue.*

FOOTBALL COACHES AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

AFCAT's busy new year

ALREADY another year has begun, and although Christmas and New Year are busy times for everyone involved in football, we hope you have been able to get some rest and recharge the batteries.

The push now begins towards the season's end and new thoughts and ideas need to be addressed in our attempts to learn and improve. NVQ's (National Vocational Qualifications) lurch ever nearer and talk of a mid-season break again comes to the fore. It is only just over a year to the European Championships here in England and only three years to the next World Cup finals in France.

We look forward to our next coaching session in Bristol on January 22, where we will be working with some of the great ideas introduced at our recent Blackburn day.

Tony Parkes, Alan Irvine and Ray Harford coaching the Blackburn School of Excellent Youngsters produced a great range of warm-up exercises, practices and small-sided games, which have been reproduced for the current issue of *Catalyst*. We were fortunate also to welcome our first members from overseas to one of our daily sessions.

One of our members, Alfons Rubbens, from Canada, has made a very valid point about the explanation of practices in the *Catalyst*.

He said "Maybe 70 per cent of coaches in Canada are eager new coaches who have finished their initial introduction programme to soccer and are looking for additional knowledge to get their teeth into. Whilst the articles in *Catalyst* are very good, we must always ask the question: would a beginner coach (two to four years in coaching) who has not been able to listen to and see a practical demonstration, understand the abbreviated written words and the small drawings.

"If we can break down the tremendous amount of knowledge and information that is available into just one or two steps at a time, many more grass roots coaches will be stimulated to excel. Isn't that one of our objectives?"

We will take these comments on board and look at ways of perhaps improving our drawings and diagrams into the future. Thanks Alfons for your comments.

The recent coaching day at Blackburn welcomed overseas members for the first time. Left-right: Mohammed Omar (Holland), Takeshi Ono (Japan), Ray Harford (Blackburn Rovers), John Curtis (USA), Alan Irvine (Blackburn Rovers), Vincent Stevens (Belgium).

THE CURRENT issue of *WORLD SOCCER* coincides with the 48th Annual Convention of the National Soccer Coaches of America, which is taking place in Washington.

Following the attendance of Gary Avedikian, President of NSCAA, Geoff Tipping, Joe Cummings and Dean Conway at our own, first Convention last year, we are delighted to inform you that three of our members, including Don Howe, have been asked to provide coaching sessions during their weekend.

We will report next month on the event which expects several thousand coaches from all over America and update you on our own progress in discussions with the NSCAA about becoming part of the International Advisory Coaching Board.

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BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

Football's Aunt Sally . . . Graham Kelly

Loving care in Lancaster Gate

WHAT a typhoon of activity has assailed the Football Association in these last weeks!

The Grobbelaar Affair; its outcome still in the balance as I write.

Followed by the Coaching Concern; the belated decease – or so one fervently hopes – of the FA Coaching Department, with all the harm it has done for so many years.

The Paul Merson Problem, which Lancaster Gate has handled with a tender, loving care that violently contrasts with the way the cocaine-snorting Argentinians, Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia, were treated by the Italians.

Merson, first. I declare an interest, having always liked him, and always admired him as a player. I am very sorry indeed that he should be in such trouble. But I still cannot see the logic of the FA's decision.

Graham Kelly, that Aunt Sally of the football world, has defended the FA's leniency – no suspension, four to six weeks of "rehabilitation," 18 months of surveillance – on the grounds that Merson's case is not on all fours with those of Caniggia and Maradona – 12 and 15 months, respectively – because Merson was not tested after a match.

So what? If he had been, if regular testing were mandatory after matches, then Merson, had he been one of those tested, unquestionaly would have been discovered.

We know he has a gambling problem as well as a cocaine habit. We know that alcohol has been another problem. He is more to be pitied than censured, no doubt. But why is it that the FA seem so ready to go in to bat for such dubious causes?

I remember all too clearly Kelly's completely gratuitous – and legally disputable – intervention in the case when Brentford forward Blissett went on trial for the fearful damage he had inflicted with an elbow on Torquay's Uzzell.

Kelly told the court that he saw as many as 200 such incidents a week. Blissett got off. And those who wanted to lift an elbow on the field, rather than at a bar, no doubt rejoiced accordingly.

Found out . . . Paul Merson

Peculiar theories . . . Charles Hughes

The Witch is dead

DING, DONG, the Witch is Dead! I wanted to sing, when the FA announced their new plans for an overall Technical Director, and an interim Czar before he is appointed, after the end of the 1996 European Championship.

I'm not too concerned about who the new Supremo will be. It's a bit like those dire days when Graham ("Do I not like that") Taylor was floundering as manager of the England team. Who might replace him was quite secondary to the need of getting rid of him. Which happened, at last, when it was far too late. But Swales me no Swales. Millichip me no Millichips.

Direct Football, so called, has been an almost pathological phenomenon. A deeply doubtful and curiously antique idea, which had its origins in the compulsive theories of Wing Commander Charles Reep, 40 years ago.

How well I remember all those squiggly little diagrams in the old lamented News Chronicle. Stanley Cullis, then manager of Wolves, agreed with them, based his tactics on long-ball play, and had a lot of success. Graham Taylor believed in Reep's theories, too. When manager of Watford he even employed Reep, though he eventually jettisoned him.

I have always thought that Taylor's bitter outburst against me, at Queens Park Rangers, after an early season League match, was occasioned not by the harmless things I'd written – THREE AND A HALF YEARS EARLIER!! – in this magazine, but because, like others, I'd fiercely criticised his long-ball tactics. Displacement, the Freudians would call that.

Charles Hughes, who so seldom foresook the haven of his Lancaster Gate office to watch major games (did anybody see him at the latest World Cup, where he believed that Brazil had got it right at last?) was another disciple of Reep.

But why, in the last analysis, make Hughes the scapegoat, even if his peculiar theories reinforced the old English tendency to hit it and hope? Like Taylor in his days as England manager, Hughes was there to be removed, had the FA so wished.

For years and years, despite the endless criticism, they didn't.

A Little touch of purity

THEN we've had the Brian Little Business. And a very depressing business it has been.

Little was under contract with Leicester. He resigned. He signed with his former club, Aston Villa. No connection, we are asked to believe.

Indeed, when Leicester, understandably embittered, went to court on the very day Villa were due to play their first game under Little, the judge refused to grant an injunction.

So we could all relax in the knowledge that Villa and their chairman, Doug Ellis, had never done a thing to induce Little to leave Leicester and go to them. Pure as the driven snow, all of them. And if I felt nauseated, that's no doubt because I hadn't understood.

I admired Little as an excellent centre-forward with Villa, saviour of Don Revie's face when England were struggling one Wembley evening against Wales. I admired what he did at Darlington; even some of what he did at Leicester, though he was lucky to get them into the Greed Is Good League.

I have no admiration for the way he comported himself more recently. When Villa, on that disenchanted evening, crashed in the League Cup 4-1 at Palace, even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forebear to cheer. And you can include me among them.

That Little should have sat on the managers' committee, helping to draw up the new code of conduct between clubs and managers, was the ultimate irony. That code means nothing; as Little's own case all too clearly showed.

The only way to disinfect the game is to follow the old Italian practice of forbidding any manager to run more than one club in any season.

That's been changed to give a window of opportunity for Italian managers as well as players, in November. A window through which Little could have climbed. I'd like to see the more rigid norm adopted.

Walker, Ardiles, Little. What a happy game we have.

At large . . . Brian Little

MAHOOD

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of *The Football Grounds of Great Britain* and *The Football Grounds of Europe*

Queen's Park we covered under H for Hampden, Quito came under E for Ecuador, and Queen of the South have not yet hit the world stage. So this month we bend the rules a little by featuring two less well-known World Cup venues and testing your knowledge in our unique *WORLD SOCCER* football ground quiz.

QUERETARO

Name Estadio La Corregidora
Capacity 39,084 all-seated
Opened February 1985

In common with several other Mexican venues built specifically for 1970 or, in Queretaro's case, for 1986, this mini-Aztec is an almost perfect football ground – three tiers on the quadric plan (ie. each of four sides gently curved for optimum viewing) and an all-round cantilevered roof. Queretaro is apparently a native Indian name meaning 'a place where ball games are played.' So had it not been for the 16th-century Spanish invasion all Mexicans might now be watching their football in queretaros and not estadios. It was in Queretaro that the Mexican fight for independence began two centuries later, but the Spanish were back in all-conquering form when they returned in '86 and recorded that memorable 5-1 win over Denmark. Ah yes, now you remember the place!

QATAR

Name Khalifa International Stadium
Capacity 45,000 all-seated
Opened 1976
Location Doha, in the Arabian Gulf

One of the most advanced venues in the Middle East, complete with video screen replays, Qatar's Khalifa Stadium was the main venue for the hectic 13-day, 15-match Asian group qualifying final round in October 1993, which included that mother of all World Cup battles between Iran and Iraq. In its less hectic moments, the stadium hosts two local clubs – Al Rayyan and Al Ittihad – and occasionally the Gulf Cup tournament.

QUIZ

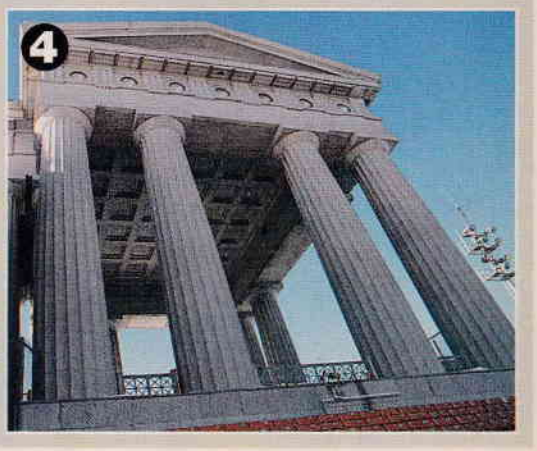
We have three copies of Simon Inglis' *The Football Grounds of Europe* to give away to the first three readers who can correctly identify the four grounds from the pictures and clues below. Answers on a postcard by February 10 to: *WORLD SOCCER* stadia competition, *WORLD SOCCER* magazine, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

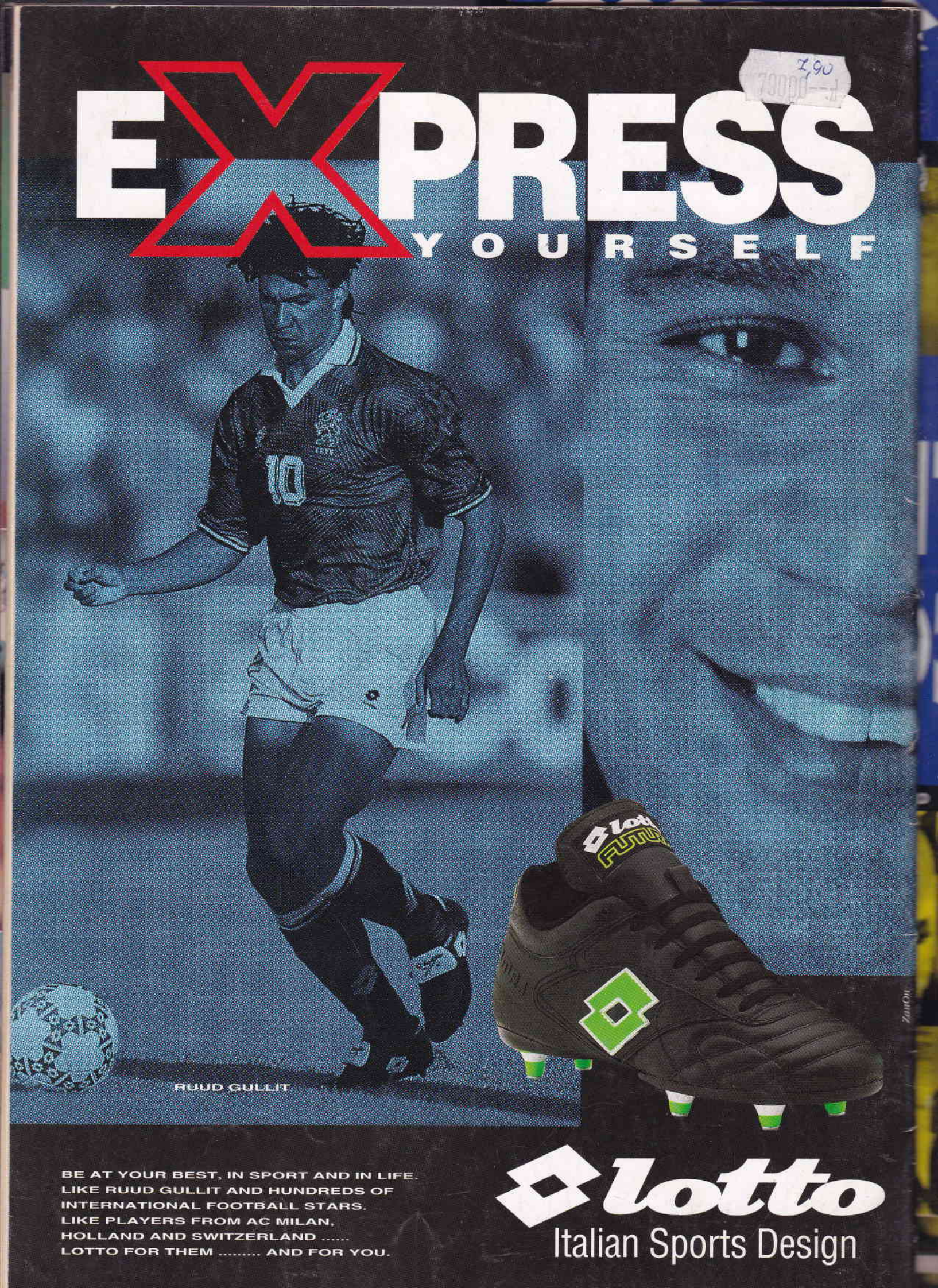
1. Sounds like a place for Italian fast cars.

2. They've swapped a few players recently, but this doesn't belong to Glasgow.

3. Not even Father Christmas can get this Italian stadium from B to A.

4. Military ground in the USA where Diana missed the target.

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